The Hongkong Telegraph.

MAIL SUPPLEMENT.

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The Hongkong Telegraph

MAIL SUPPLEMENT,

ISSUED GRATIS TO SUBSCRIBERS.

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1908.

GOVERNMENT RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE APPOINTED.

(5th December.)

Although it is barely three months since the Estimates of the Colony's revenue and expenditure during the current year were submitted to the Legislative Council and passed, the Government has already found it necessary to curtail still further all items of expenditure which are not absolutely requisite for the welfare of the Colony. To-day's issue of the *Gazette* furnishes abundant evidence of this retrenchment. In ordinary times, when there is a steady or rising revenue, when the outlook is promising, and there are no shadows to darken the financial situation in the future, a certain laxity in providing for the wants of the Government Department is excusable. But at present, when the air is thick with rumours of impending trouble, and the revenue appears to be decreasing without full and adequate reason to explain away the cause, it is highly essential that retrenchment should be effected in the most trivial concerns, even although, in some cases, the cutting down of expenses may lead to a certain amount of impatience on the part of the heads of Departments. It is only to be expected that those in charge of the various bureaux under the Government should cavil at the elimination of small items, which from time immemorial have been allowed them by the Legislative Council and it may be that the old cry of compulsory inefficiency will be raised; but efficiency is quite as consistent with economy as it is with wanton extravagance, and the Government Departments will have to learn that sour lesson before many weeks have passed. By order of His Excellency the Governor, a Retrenchment Committee, pledged to undertake the most drastic reforms in the public expenditure and to rigorously strike out every individual item which seems at all superfluous or which can at least be temporarily omitted, and to scrape the bones of even necessary departmental needs, has been appointed and will, we understand, commence a thorough investigation of the Government offices from top to bottom. There is to be no mercy shown by this official Committee in simply whittling down a few dollars here and a few dollars there, after the old-time custom. It intends to conduct a wholesale sweep of the most infinitesimal outgoings and to scrutinize to the very marrow the reasons which may be adduced in favour of the retention of lump sums, covering untold objects that can be done without. Obviously, there must be many details of expenditure which are by no means actually required in the proper working of the departmental machine, and it is just possible that money is diverted into side channels other than those contemplated when the Estimates are in course of preparation. It will be for the Retrenchment Committee to keep a strict watch for such diversions of the public expenditure and to be adamant when such a vague item as "sundries" is mooted. The personal tastes and predilections of office-holders will have to be wholly disregarded, otherwise the result of the inquiry will be comparatively fruitless. It is not a savoury duty which has been imposed on the Retrenchment Committee, nor is it one which anybody so closely bound together by mutual ties, interests, hopes and aspirations as the members of the higher branches of the Civil Service are, would willingly undertake. This outcome may mean the undermining of friendships and the creation of vague suspicions that certain departments are not afforded that consideration consonant with their dignity and traditions, but if the Committee is to do anything in the shape of realising its aim, then the members will endeavour, as far as it is humanly possible, to harbour but a single thought in their minds, and that the public weal. What we anticipate as a direct outcome of this unwonted, although extremely necessary zeal for economy is the entire reorganisation of the several Government Departments. We do not for a moment suggest or advocate the dismissal of clerks who have given their lives to the Government service because such a step would be merely criminal, but it would increase the distress which exists in the Colony and penalise those who through no fault of their own have been engaged to satisfy the whims and fancies of their immediate superiors. But are there not cases where duties are multiplied *ad infinitum*, simply because the dignity and self-importance of one official will not permit of his communicating in person with a subordinate. What about all those needless "chits" which fly around, visiting one Department after another until at last it reaches the individual for whom it was originally intended? Only to be answered by another "chit" which performs the identical circumlocutory journey, at the end of which it is discovered, that the answer conveys nothing. If the labours of the Retrenchment Committee lead to the reorganisation of staff duties so much desired it will at once attain two objects—that of existing wasteful expenditure, and that of introducing long needed reforms. It might not be inadvisable for the Committee to invite anonymous suggestions from the junior servants of the Government, indicating in what direction economies might be effected. It would never do for the subordinates to sign their names to such messages, for reasons which need not be stated. But if anybody should know where unnecessary expenditure is being incurred it should be the humble pen wiper, who does not dare to open his mouth in case the inexorable law of contumacy and insubordination be dragged out for his special benefit. With one exception, the Retrenchment Committee will, we understand, be composed of officials, the non-officials, being, it is rumoured, Mr. Murray Stewart. In view of the explicit directions of the Governor that the Committee must spare nobody, it is a certainty that the official element will proceed to the attack with the gusto of famished wolves, and leave many a gap in the hide of the departmental offices. Mr. Murray Stewart, if our supposition is correct that he has been requested to associate himself with the work of spoiling the Egyptians, will unquestionably go to his task with a fair, open and unbiassed mind, and his presence may even afford a gleam of hope in the eyes of those who already see their cherished views as to what a Government Department should be ruthlessly destroyed. That the Committee has not been appointed too soon is evidenced by the fact that in the comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure for the period ended 30th September, 1908, we find that there has been a total decrease as compared with the corresponding period in 1907 of $427,942, which is exclusive of land sales and these also show a decrease amounting to $60,428. These figures speak for themselves, and there the question of retrenchment may be left for the present.

THE SOLUTION OF THE FILIPINO PROBLEM.

When we consider the high aspirations which animated the Americans when they took possession of the Philippine Islands, the ideals which they held on the subject of colonial administration, the marvellous reforms introduced long before the natives were prepared for violent changes, it is with a feeling akin to amazement that we read in the Manila papers the ill-effects which progressive and enlightened Government has had on the natives. With all the will in the world to "boost" up the claims of the Philippines to general recognition the crowning defect remains that the natives refuse to be disturbed from the sloth and laziness which are ingrained in their nature. According to the Filipino doctrine, which was not disputed by the Spaniards, or, at all events, was shown in the Spanish contempt for the toiler, it is only the slave and the serf, the bondsman and the renegade who should toil and moil for a hand to mouth living. The freeman, the man with a patch of land sufficient to bear a few banana trees, perhaps a cocoanut or two, and enough herbs to provide for the daily decoction of vino, is above the drudgery of labour. It is an excellent doctrine for those born in the purple, but as far as the commoner is concerned it has its drawbacks. Now that there is a stable Government established in the Philippines various outlays have to be met by the squatters, such as taxes for road communications and the maintenance of civil administration. In consequence, the Filipino, accustomed to his perennial siesta, has either to be up and doing or find other methods of meeting the demands of the interloper. The alternative is the easiest way out of the difficulty and when it happens that the date for the tax-gatherer to appear comes round, there are many and sundry disappearances from the stock of wealthier or more fortunate neighbours. This does not merely apply to the payment of taxes, as a little incident which occurred lately, and is reported in the *Cablenews* will show: "Four Filipinos, a woman and a child, were boloed and then burned up in the store of Mr. Guy Stratton, which is situated on the coast of Palawan several miles south of Puerto Princesa. Agustin Suarez was in charge of Mr. Stratton's trading store at the point mentioned. The Moro datto of the region was indebted to Suarez for a large quantity of merchandise and became highly indignant when requested to settle up. He swore vengeance and gathering his clan on the night of October 14 raided the store, killing Agustin Suarez, his wife, and child, Mauricio Fabian, assistant to Suarez, and two other Filipinos. After looting the place of everything of value the house and bodies of the victims were burned." That is how the wild tribes in the archipelago pay their debts and if the more civilised natives do not venture that length it is only because they have proved other methods to be equally effective and much less hazardous. The real question, it will be seen, is how to lead the Filipino to a proper realisation of the dignity of labour. Is the problem insoluble; is it beyond the power of the American Government to induce the new subjects of the United States to understand the advantages they would personally derive from the development of the agricultural and mineral resources of the Islands? A somewhat similar problem faced the British when they took under their protecting wing the Federated Malay States. There, from the sultans downwards, the meaning of work was unknown; in fact it was a degrading spectacle to witness a man, presumably sane and responsible for his actions, voluntarily assisting his female dependants in the fields and no man with a kriss or a spear allowed the idea to cross his mind. Yet to-day the Malays are workers in the best sense of the word. They are industrious and in their own fashion enterprising, and this entire change has been brought about since the days of Sir Stamford Raffles. How did the British pioneers lead the Malay into the path of labour without harming their high spirit or coercing them in any way? Well, we will come to that presently. It is openly admitted now that the Filipino is a shiftless, weary, forlorn creature, who cannot be got to work at any price. Most Americans who come to Hongkong from the Philippines deny the fact, but we maintain it is true nevertheless, and we are supported in that attitude by the well-informed *Cablenews*, which is not likely to condemn or chastise the natives without reason. American visitors point with no little pride to the numbers of Filipinos who are engaged in Manila at ordinary labouring work; they speak of native-built bridges, and of the Filipinos who toil in the ship-repairing yards, the factories and so forth. Take any American who has spent his life in and around Manila and he will rhapsodise over the wonderful strides made by the Insular Government in the way of public improvements and the faculty they have attained of attracting native labour. But Manila is not the Philippine Islands nor is the erection of public buildings any criterion of progress in the provinces. The American administrators have given the Filipinos liberty, freedom of speech, a free press, good government and the promise of autonomy when the time is fitting. They have provided the natives with an Assembly of their own—to which some of the greatest rascals were elected and would have lived at the public expense if the Government had not interfered—and they have done everything to make life easy for the lotus-eater. But to what avail? The native press turns upon its benefactors and calls them everything but Blessed. The common crowd indulges in vainglorious spoutings and wild imaginings which a dozen years ago would have been characterised as rank rebellion. They gather together in their hovels and preach sedition, for there is nobody to compare with the chronic loafer as a frothy propagandist and a downright call-to-arms agitator. All this to escape the burden of toil. They would rather beg their way from pillar to post than earn an honest, decent livelihood. And their scorn of a Government which refuses to maintain in affluence these needy windbags is superb. Listen for a moment to the inimitable sarcasm of *El Renacimiento*: "There was a time when we believed that we were being guided to glory by this great people. With the change of situation everything appeared to indicate that here famine, calamity, despotism, covetousness on the part of parsimonious government officials, and absolutism would be unknown. It looked as though there would be nothing but prosperity and liberty enlightened with justice. We laughed in our glee and dreamed of the good fortune that was to be ours. But lo! after the passing of time that has left behind it unhappy memories, doubt has invaded the soul of the Filipino." Doubt as to what? the reader will ask. Doubt as to whether they are likely to be kept as fatted calves for the rest of their natural lives is the answer, we suggest. The Assembly has been converted into a receptacle, we are told, for beggars' petitions, the suspension of taxes, appeals against this, that and the next thing and all the rest of the usual rigmarole. *El Renacimiento* kindly absolves the Government from the entire blame of the *fiasco* which is the usual ending of Assembly meetings and actually hints that if the Government is incapable of attending to the needs of the people, then the people will have to cure their miseries and calamities by their own individual and collective efforts, otherwise they will perish. That is the climax. If the Government won't help them they will have to work. Such an alternative must strike awe and horror into the stoutest Filipino heart. The leaders of the people will grovel in their dismay, for there is nothing like work to distract a man's attention from the declamatory effervescence of disappointed demagogues. It is the death-knell of incendiary orations and the ring of evil-minded place-hunters knows it. Editorially, the *Cablenews*, dealing with this subject, remarks: "What astonishes most the stranger who comes to the Philippines are the thousands and tens of thousands of loafers. In every tienda, every billiard room, and in almost every window are able-bodied men who apparently have nothing to do. When the members of the committee on cholera investigation of Merchants' Association went into the filthiest parts of Manila, they were struck by these sights." And again: "Go into the provinces and these scenes are accentuated a thousand per cent. Everywhere there are men lolling in their shacks. The visitor, especially who comes by way of China and who has seen there the patient and toiling millions cannot help but draw the contrast, to the prejudice of the Filipino." The *Cablenews* has hit the nail on the head when it calls attention to China. There is the country where work is not considered derogatory, where barren hills are converted into smiling oases. Now we come to the point why Great Britain so successfully managed to bring the Malays to understand that they had everything to gain by labour. Chinese by the hundred and the thousand were imported to open up the mines, to work in the engineering yards, to plant paddy and tapioca. The Chinese were paid reasonable wages. They lived like fighting-cocks, from the Malay point of view. They gambled when they wished, and they had the money to gamble with, and they took trips to China and had great times when the spirit moved them. Some of them prospered and launched out on their own account, became towkays and respected members of society. The force of example and the evidence of what could be gained by imitating the Chinese miracle only did what no *coup-de-main* could have done; it induced the Malay to recognise that labour and hard labour at that, had its compensations, and the average Malay to-day is a worker and not a dreamer. The American Government have erected an insurmountable barrier against Chinese labour. They have excluded the very people who would have opened the eyes of the Filipinos to the benefits which flow from labour. When the Government relaxes the restrictions and admits the Chinese agricultural labourer to offer an example of what patience and industry can achieve, then, perhaps, the problem of work as the real panacea of the Philippines may be solved.

A VETERAN IN THE FAR EAST.

(7th December.)

Those who live in the Far East are probably the last to appreciate at their proper value the wonderful developments which are gradually and almost imperceptibly bringing the Orient into closer touch with the Western world. We are deprived of the necessary perspective which affords a true estimate of the changing conditions, and even when we do occasionally obtain a glimpse of the regenerative movements which are transforming the Far East it is so transitory and evanescent that long before we have realised its immediate value our interests have been diverted to other directions. Not from the casual tourist can the man on the spot gain much insight regarding the new points which are most noteworthy, unless that tourist is of a peculiarly penetrative and inquisitive caste. It is the old stager, if we may be allowed to put it so crudely, the visiting wanderer who has heard the East a-calling, and who comes to refresh his memory of scenes half-forgotten, although they were once part and parcel of his daily life who sees the differences. His is the story that is worth listening to by the new breed which has flocked into the places left vacant by him and his generation. And although there must be a certain pleasure in visiting the Far East, there must also be a certain amount of shock at the innumerable changes that have taken place within the space of a single decade or less. For the East is no stagnant pool, but the throbbing hive of industry, where competition becomes keener every day, and the old haphazard methods are pushed aside in the scramble for a foothold on the ladder of success. It will be understood, then, how interesting such a book as "The Far East Revisited" will prove to those who are eking out a somewhat precarious livelihood in the Orient, especially when it is stated that the author is Mr. A. Gorton Angier, the well-known Editor of the *London & China Express*, whose duties naturally keep him alive to the manifold interests at stake in the Orient, even although he has settled down in the homeland. From beginning to end of the volume, which is a record of his tour in the spring of this year, Mr. Angier seems to write in the spirit of a discoverer, rather than that of a citizen returned to his own. Events that were only in the making when Mr. Angier was on his former trip have now materialised, and ideas which were considered in the nature of dreams have now become actual facts. Probably by reason of his calling he is never carried away by enthusiasm, and, indeed, at times he shows a curiously detached side, in dealing with figures and details, which forms a resting-stage after his descriptions of places and people and the inevitable comparisons which occur to his mind. "The Far East Revisited" is not the itinerary of a mere globetrotter's wanderings, dictated by caprice, nor is it a connected series of views collated with the purpose of influencing a predetermined verdict. In many ways it differs from the ordinary book of travel. It is neither a patchwork of essays, such as Mr. Alleyne Ireland wrote, nor a review and compilation of personal opinions and judgments after the fashion of Mr. Putnam Weale. If we could put it briefly we should hint at an after-dinner relation of experiences, a statement of facts enlightened with personal reminiscences, such as might be expected from the "Old China hand" who has not lost his skill as a raconteur. Mr. Angier has divided his work into four parts—Malaya, China, Korea and Japan, but, as might have been guessed, his eye is keenest on the affairs of the Straits and China, which are his special provinces in a measure. It should be stated for the benefit of the few to whom the *L. & C. Express* is unknown, that these chapters illustrating a sojourn in the gold and purple Orient appeared in the newspaper over which Mr. Angier presides, although, no doubt, they have been revised in various ways. But it is well that they should have been issued in book form, for they contain the musings of one well qualified to offer advice and particularly well placed to form an independent and sensible opinion on the Far East in transition. Mr. Angier passes India and Colombo unnoticed, and begins his chatty and informative narration of the places he has observed at Singapore. It was a new Singapore that he found himself landed at—a Singapore where something seemed to have temporarily, at least, arrested the quiet progress of what had always struck him as a smooth-running, money-making machine. He sees many lines of business being diverted from British firms to Chinese and foreign houses, just as he observes that the ports of Java are bidding, and too often successfully, for the trade which has hitherto been considered the heritage of Singapore. Of course, he is deeply interested in the improvements which are being effected at the Tanjong Pagar Docks, and has much to say against the currency system which established the dollar at 2s 4d instead of as he pretends would have been the more satisfactory figure, 2s 6d. His is somewhat strange reasoning to find that Mr. Angier lays so great weight on what has been termed Singapore's hinterland, the sultanate of Johore. He makes little or no mention of that rich undeveloped land as a possible factor in the rejuvenation of our Southern neighbour even in the event of the Dutch colonies snatching more than their rightful share of trade from Singapore; nor does he emphasise the value of the Malay States railway to Johore as a feeder for the export and import traffic. Perhaps, he places too much faith in the future of Penang as an outlet for the produce of the peninsula, and his animadversions on the character of the buildings, the unsatisfactory provision made for wharf accommodation, the general air of parental consideration which exudes from his writings on the subject of Penang, may be simply offered in the spirit of the true believer in that Settlement's prosperity. We have no space to deal with Mr. Angier's views on currency, although we may say that we are not disciples of his suggestion that the silver dollar should have been withdrawn and a $1 note taken its place, when the question was being settled by the Straits Legislative Council. In towns the dollar note might have met with acceptance, and torn notes easily replaced, but one can fancy what would have been the result in the Malay States when the coolies were being paid off in dollar bills, which had to go the round of the village shops until they became undecipherable. Mr. Angier has much to say regarding the importance of roads, motors and railways to the Malay States, and he had the best of guidance to inform him regarding their future prospects. He thereafter proceeded on a trip to North Borneo and Netherlands India, in which he refers to Sabang, "where a considerable amount of capital and energy have been expended to constitute it a coaling station and an *entrepôt* for trade that would possibly be a rival to Singapore and Penang." But after viewing the port, and the machinery which is capable of loading vessels at the rate of 140 tons an hour he comes to this conclusion:—

The only local industry at Sabang, apart from possible repairs to calling steamers, is the manufacture of white pepper, which is a monopoly of the Atjeh Trading Company. In other ways the disadvantages of little or no cargo offering for the liners provides little inducement to them to call. If steamers, outwards and homewards for China and Japan ports were not in the habit of carrying Straits cargo they might save a little time in coaling at Pulo Way instead of at Singapore or Colombo. But, generally speaking, all these vessels carry Straits cargo, and have thus an object in calling at the ports apart from the question of fuel supply. So long as such conditions prevail, there is little chance of Pulo Way attracting any appreciable portion of the Singapore or Penang traffic.

A visit is also paid to Siam, where the usual extraordinary antithetical scenes are witnessed. Coming to Hongkong, Mr. Angier waxes eloquent on the developments achieved. He has been in the hands of some aggrieved Civil Servant who deplored the fact that silver had risen with a consequent reduction in the number of dollars paid out to him, but nothing is said of the Civil Servant who gets paid at the rate of a 2s. dollar when the current rate is 1s. 8d. This is an old question which we do not intend to revive, but it shows how sedulously the Civil Servant utilises every opportunity to press his own particular side of the matter on strangers and visitors. Praise, undiluted and unrestrained, is awarded Sir Matthew Nathan for the interest he displayed in the Kowloon-Canton railway, and Mr. Angier goes the length of asserting that: "The railway will always remain as a memento of his too short administration, even though its completion take place under another *régime*." There is a Scotch saying which may be used in this connection and it is: "Maybe aye, and maybe imphm." Not a word, so far as we have noticed, appears regarding the work of Sir Frederick Lugard, who has been sent out to face a situation that would shake the nerves of the most capable administrator. The omission and contrast are very significant. Mr. Angier is wholly opposed to the present site of the Naval Yard, and standing by his guns, says: "One is almost led to wonder whether it would not be worth while to make a bid even yet for the property, for the purpose of extending the town, on the basis of the erection of a naval yard elsewhere." If Mr. Angier had glanced at the financial position of Hongkong he would have suggested, no doubt, at the same time, where the money was to come from. Reference is made to the chief industries and undertakings in the Colony, mostly in a commendatory spirit, though we are inclined to fancy that Mr. Angier's education in this respect is mostly book-learnt. His Excellency Chow Fu was Viceroy at Canton when Mr. Angier visited the capital of South China, and we are told: "His Excellency likewise spoke somewhat bitterly of the freedom enjoyed by the Chinese papers published in Hongkong; they appeared to be a considerable thorn in his side. He could not appreciate the British point of view and wanted to know why these papers were not suppressed. He said he had forbidden their entry into his Viceroyalty but he would evidently like to see them stopped entirely. It was little comfort that one could give him beyond suggesting a press law for China, though of not too drastic a character. One desires to see the native press grow, but that it should not be an element entirely subversive to the present order of things." On the Opium question, Mr. Angier preserves a strictly non-committal attitude, simply saying that in view of the Imperial Government's pronouncement the Colonial Government will have to adopt other measures to throw its revenue. His reference to West Point

BIRTHS.

On November 23, 1908, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. F. C. FRISCHLING, a son.

On November 29, 1908, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. JAMES LAW, a daughter.

On November 29, 1908, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. J. JESSEN, a daughter.

On November 30, 1908, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. C. D. PEARSON, a daughter.

On December 2, 1908, at Shanghai, the wife of WM. YOUNG, of a son.

On December 3, at Shanghai, the wife of J. OWEN, I. M. Customs, of a son.

On December 3, 1908, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. W. ARMOUR, a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On October 28, 1908, at Eastbourne, CHARLES TALBOT, eldest son of L. B. BOWRING, C.S.I., to MARY IRENE, eldest daughter of Joseph Parker.

On October 29, 1908, at Rock Ferry, CHARLES ARTHUR GRAVES, son of the late A. S. Graves, of Rock Ferry, to CLARA, daughter of Lilley Ellis, of Rock Park, Rock Ferry.

DEATHS.

On November 29, 1908, in London, PATRICK MCGREGOR GRANT, aged 56 years (by telegram).

On November 30, 1908, at Hachonia, Kiangsu, PAUL DONALD, son of the Rev. and Mrs. M. B. Grier, aged 1 years, of diphtheria.

On December 3, 1908, at Shanghai, JOHN CHRISTOPHER NICHOLAS, late of I.M. Customs Service, son of Capt. J. C. Nicholas, of Liverpool. Aged 49 years.

On December 5, 1908, at Shanghai, the Rev. Walter Ashton, M.A., late Pastor of the English Presbyterian Church.

kind prospects are those of the enlightened and trained observer, but of no special interest to people in Hongkong. It is the section dealing with China which will attract all students of Far Eastern affairs, for here Mr. Angier becomes the sage and the prophet, the philosopher actuated by the spirit of the pathologist. He is strong in his belief that the Cantonese are responsible both for reactionary and reform movements. In one place he holds that Cantonese cliques rule the situation, and satirically remarks: "The members may be quite sincere in their cry of 'China for the Chinese!' but in some instances this has meant China for the Cantonese." He is a mine of information with respect to doings in China, and speculates curiously on what would happen should the Empress-Dowager and the Emperor go the way of all flesh. His views are absorbingly interesting where Chinese affairs are concerned, and for that section of the book alone its wide diffusion throughout the English-speaking communities of the Middle Kingdom, and also among that small party of reformers in England whose zeal too often outruns their discretion should be ensured. With regard to Korea and Japan, little need be said, beyond this, that Mr. Angier gives in brief an excellent idea of how the Hermit Kingdom is being brought into contact with civilisation and Dai Nippon is progressing. Mr. Angier is a most engaging writer, who attracts attention to questions whose immediate interest has almost evaporated owing to their repeated recurrence, and the fact that he speaks from the experience stored up in a well-filled and acute mind, and is a thoroughgoing eliminator of mere verbiage and lackadaisical reveries, should commend his admirable exposition on affairs in the Orient to all those who seek to keep in touch with the world at our doorstep. "The Far East Revisited" will be enjoyed, appreciated, and read to the last leaf by everybody who glances at the opening page. There is an introduction by Sir Robert Hart, in his characteristic style. For the benefit of readers it may be stated that the publishers are Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, London, and that the published price is 10s.

THE FIRE FIEND IN SHANGHAI.

(8th December.)

Whatever may be the general opinion regarding the efficiency and *personnel*, of the police force in Hongkong it is manifest that the secret of baffling the fire fiend has been discovered by them. At this period of the year, popularly known as the "fire season," the brigade used to be kept perpetually in the fidgets responding to false alarms or coping with real conflagrations. But of late years, those who would fain be guilty of incendiarism have thought twice before lighting the match which would bring destruction and ruin on the premises of their neighbours; while it might enable them personally to tide over an inauspicious settling day, and at the same time give an impetus to fire insurance. In Shanghai, however, to judge by the latest papers to hand, the authorities are daily brought face to face with the demon, which springs up in all parts of the city and seldom leaves until it has wreaked its vengeance. From Monday, the 23rd ult., until the Saturday there were no less than eleven fires reported in the Settlement and on the Saturday four alarms were received, one of which proved to be false. Two of the houses attacked were reached by the Brigade before any great damage had been done but it is noteworthy that both places were fully insured. The fourth outbreak was of a more serious character, no less than six houses being gutted while two were rendered uninhabitable owing to the effects of both fire and water. In this case only one of the buildings was insured, so that no suspicion attaches to the character of the origin of the fire, but it may be noted for future reference that it is believed the fire was caused through the capsizing of a kerosine lamp. We are not given any estimate as to the resultant damage but it may be assumed that a round $10,000 would not cover the loss. On the very next day, Sunday, the 19th November, five fires broke out in different parts of the Settlement, and in three instances they proved to be of a very serious character. We pass over the two minor cases and arrive at the blaze which destroyed the New Travellers' Hotel, which, it is stated, was situated in Hongkew. The flames were first seen shortly after four o'clock in the morning, and before the Brigade arrived "the interior of the hostelry was like a furnace." The place was owned by a gentleman whose name smacks of Russian origin, but he and his family did not live on the premises. There were lodgers, however, and a vivid description is given of how they scrambled to safety. The premises belonged to Messrs. E. D. Sassoon & Co. who were insured, while the stock-in-trade was also insured, by the tenant presumably, to the extent of 10,000 taels. The origin of the fire is unknown. The firemen had just finished up there, when another and a real conflagration, on this occasion was reported from Nanking Road, at the corner of Chekiang Road. That was at six o'clock on Sunday morning, so that the firemen had been having a lively time since Saturday. When the Brigade appeared, after extinguishing the Hongkew outbreak, they found that half a dozen tea shops, piece goods houses, and general stores were, as a Shanghai writer describes it, "blazing merrily, the flames being so fierce that they leapt right across the roadway and the houses on both sides were well alight when the firemen arrived." No less than seventeen houses were burned to the ground, while many others were damaged by the scorching heat and the water used in quelling the flames. The heat was so intense that the firemen had to use shutters when they wanted to get within striking distance of the fire. One fighter had the clothes scorched off his body and was so badly blistered and burned by the heat alone, even although he was a considerable distance from the flames, that he had to be medically treated. Most of the damage was covered by insurance and it is expected to reach 100,000 taels. The cause of the outbreak is unknown. But several arrests have been made. After a short respite, the tired brigadiers were again called out on Sunday afternoon to a place not far from North Szechuan Road. There they found several houses, to quote a contemporary, "blazing merrily" and eventually eight houses were completely gutted while several were so badly damaged that they will have to be rebuilt before they can be re-occupied. In this case the fire started in a cook house which was not insured. What happened on the Monday we cannot tell, but at all events, the members of the Fire Brigade certainly deserved a rest. While we in Hongkong can sympathise with the people of Shanghai in their troubles, we are entitled to rejoice that to whatever cause it may be due we are at present and have been for some considerable time exempt from the wholesale ravages of the fire fiend. Not to put too fine a point on it, we attribute this security to the vigilance of the police force, and particularly to the watchfulness of that little band of Chinese detectives who do a vast amount of secret service whose value it is impossible to estimate and whose labours are therefore seldom appreciated. If the fire-bell has clanged but tardy of late and laggard roosters have not been disturbed, it is to the local constabulary that the credit is due, and to the wholesome terror that the police backed up by the Magistracy have inspired in the hearts of those desperadoes whose hearts are willing but whose flesh is decidedly weak. We wonder if Shanghai would not find it profitable to get some notion as to how Hongkong manages to defy the fire-bug?

WHAT COMMERCIAL MORALITY REQUIRES.

From several points of view, a case reported in the Singapore papers, involving the bankruptcy of a leading stockbroker in that Settlement, and the question of his discharge, should prove of interest to the mercantile community of Hongkong. It was one of those comparatively few bankruptcies where the debtor's honesty of purpose was admitted, and where the debtor himself was the principal and most earnest agent in fathoming the causes which had led to his financial downfall. There was, also, a side-issue, in as much as the bankrupt, within three months preceding the date of the receiving order, when unable to pay his debts as they became due, gave an undue preference to at least one creditor not by his own personal act but by the negligence of one of his employes. It should be stated that the assets were not of a value equal to 50 per cent. of the bankrupt's unsecured liabilities. The case came before Mr. Justice Sercombe Smith on an application by the Official Assignee, who was merely carrying out the terms of the Ordinance in bringing certain matters to the knowledge of the Court. Harold Latham, who carried on business as a broker, under the firm of Latham & Co., presented his own petition in bankruptcy, and in January last a receiving order was made against him, the debtor being adjudicated a bankrupt. The Official Assignee acknowledged the assistance he had received from the debtor in straightening out his affairs and in collecting debts. One of the questions which had also to be considered by the Court in addition to those mentioned was whether the bankrupt had contributed to his bankruptcy by the want of reasonable care. With regard to the point that the assets were under 50 per cent. of the unsecured liabilities, no attempt had been made, the judge said, to satisfy the Court that this was owing to circumstances for which the debtor could not justly be held blameable. As to the question of whether the bankruptcy had been caused by the want of reasonable care on the part of the debtor and lack of attention to his business and affairs, it was alleged that the bankrupt had left matters in exchange and shares too much in the hands of an assistant and that he had gone outside of his ordinary sphere of broker and embarked on other enterprises—although the Court did not go the length of stigmatising this as speculation. So far, of course, it is the old story of a broker who is himself caught by the fever which periodically attacks Singapore. Every now and again rich "strikes" are reported from the Malay States and immediately hundred per cent. dividends are apparently discernible. Half a dozen mining companies spring into life, lead a mushroom existence for a time and finally disappear. Probably as much money has been thrown into the soil of the Federated Malay States uselessly as there has been in Australia. Now it is rubber that attracts the investor and the speculator alike and half a dozen years hence it will be something else. In most cases the *bona-fide* investor has been hit hard, and in not a few instances the speculator has been bitten, having held on to the shares just "a shade too long." At one time, indeed, company meetings in Singapore were as rife as orangas in the season, but they were melancholy gatherings, at which those who attended looked like and actually were chief mourners at a funeral. Evidently the debtor in the present case had interested himself in outside undertakings when he was overtaken by the financial tidal wave which swept over the world last year. As a result, it may be assumed that his direct attention was distracted to a certain extent from his business as a broker. The Court found that the bankrupt had shown want of reasonable care, the meaning of the term being "such care as the average man would pay to his affairs in business." With respect to the charge that undue preference had been shown to one creditor, the Court held that it need not be a personal act on the part of the debtor to constitute an undue preference. A bankrupt was responsible for any undue preference given to a creditor by his assistant, though, in this case, "the circumstances seemed to him to be such that it was given without the actual knowledge of the bankrupt himself." In coming to a decision, Mr. Justice Sercombe Smith said that the Court had to exercise its discretion as to the order it would make upon the application for discharge, and the governing principle in such cases was that it was bound to take into consideration, not the interests of the bankrupt or of the creditors alone, but those of the public and of commercial morality. His Lordship asked the questions: What are the interests of the public and what does commercial morality require the Court to do? After stating the alternatives, Mr. Justice Sercombe Smith said: "The bankrupt has told the Court that if he were now a free man he would not be able to make, in the present state of business conditions, in Singapore, more than $700 a month gross, and he has given us details of his expenses, both business and domestic, and those expenses work out to a sum of a few dollars over $700 gross which, he says, he would be able to earn. Assuming that $700 a month gross is an under-estimate of what the bankrupt, if a free man, might earn, yet, on the other hand, it is quite possible that he has put his expenses at a very low rate and that he may have under-estimated them so that, on that point, I have come to the conclusion that his situation and his prospects are not such as should prevail on the Court or influence it to grant an order of discharge subject to any condition with respect to any earnings or income which may become due to him, or in respect of his after acquired property. So the Court is thrown back on another alternative. I think the justice of this case will be met by making an order of discharge, and suspending its operation for six months." One would have desired to learn what the debtor estimated that his net income would be, because it certainly seems somewhat anomalous that a broker earning $700 gross per month should not be in a position to pay off his debts or a fair proportion of them gradually. Perhaps there were circumstances in the case not made public which led the Court to adopt an exceptionally sympathetic view of the degree of culpability which might be attributed to the defendant on account of the losses. At all events, the judgment shows that the honest man, who seeks relief in the Bankruptcy Court, and is able to show an adequate reason for his condition, even although he has foolishly left an essential part of his business to an assistant, has nothing to fear. There is no disgrace in failure which is not the outcome of fatuous speculation, though it is difficult to convince the majority of people on the point. The only thing that counts is success, and it is to be hoped that the Singapore broker who has touched the depths of business humiliation may now be taken in hand by the capricious Jade, who rules our destinies and given another chance.

GOLD CURRENCY FOR SIAM.

When the Government of Siam decided in 1902 to place the currency of the country on a more satisfactory basis, in order that it should be less subject to the fluctuations of silver exchange, a gold-standard was adopted which gave the tical a token value about equal to that of the rupee, or 1s. 4d, which meant 15 ticals to the sovereign. The adoption of this measure was carried through by Mr. Rivett-Carnac, who then occupied the post of Financial Adviser to the Government of Siam, assisted by Mr. J. R. Nicholson, the manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank at Singapore, and Mr. Cadell, the agent of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China at the Southern Settlement. The negotiations were not carried through without prolonged discussion, the banks looking at the conversion from a purely business standpoint while the Government had to take into consideration the effect which the enhanced value of the tical would have on labour. From the importers' point of view the change was all in their favour, but if the conversion was carried through during the height of the rice season, the rice-millers stood to lose in two ways, in their transactions with the producers and their dealings with the buyers. On the other hand, the interests of the two principal banks located at Bangkok could not be overlooked, and as they controlled the situation they held out for their rights. Concessions were made on both sides, and what may be described as a *modus vivendi* was arranged. But the Government of Siam failed to secure all that was expected from the gold standard in its forgetfulness that despite the proclaimed assurance that the tical was worth so much at the Treasury, the banks would only regard it on a purely silver exchange basis. In fact, a tical might be theoretically worth 1s. 2d. and yet the banks would not touch it if offered at 1s 2d. About this time the white metal was in fine fluctuating form, and the value of the tical except in so far as taxes and Government dues might be concerned, swerved this way and that just as the financial wind swung the silver weathercock. The Government, however, was building up a gold reserve, not after the fashion of the Straits Government, which has apparently decided to keep a large proportion of its gold in London, but more after the method adopted in Japan. All along the intention was avowed that the gold standard would as soon as convenient be stiffened and buttressed by a gold currency, which would place Siam in line with the leading countries of the world. When Siam ventured into the maelstrom of currency problems, she was without a Mint, in the proper sense of the term. Those old lumps of beaten silver stamped with Siamese devices were current exchange, and there were even pellets of beaten gold, representing multiples of ticals—so that a gold currency is no new feature to the Siamese. With the advent of Mr. Rivett-Carnac the erection of a Mint commensurate with the needs of trade and commerce was begun, and Birmingham supplied the necessary instruments and machines. The new ical resembled the English florin in size and bore distinctive Siamese devices, the three-headed elephant, the representation of the Siamese crown and so forth. And so in 1902 or perhaps later, the gold standard became an actual fact, although it was a fact of little value to the ordinary business man whose transactions were conducted through the three banks in Bangkok—the Hongkong and Shanghai, the Chartered, and the Banque de l'Indo Chine, all of which worked harmoniously together. It need not be said that the banks made handsome and enormous profits over the conversion, without budging a single inch from their own particular territory. As a matter of fact, it was reported at the time that the banks made such a good thing out of the regularising of the Siamese currency that their profits would, if declared, have taken away the breath of the King of Siam. Be that as it may, the Financial Adviser steadily kept his eye on the goal of issuing a gold currency, and although only a paid British financial expert, lent by the Indian Government, he put his whole heart and soul into the task of reorganising the financial methods in vogue. It has to be noted in this connection that while these proposals for the adoption of a gold standard were being considered and negotiations were in progress, the Bangkok press received the fullest information as to the points agreed upon—so far, of course, as was deemed compatible with the successful termination of the interviews and the interests of the public generally. Mr. Rivett-Carnac was succeeded by Mr. W. J. F. Williamson, who followed the lines mapped out by his predecessor, and now, without apparently the slightest previous warning, a gold currency scheme for Siam has been launched. It does not take effect immediately for reasons which everyone will understand, the state of the money market being far from conducive to success were an immediate gold currency law to come into effect, but the scheme is there, the law has been passed, and the matter is settled. We need not go into intricate details contained in the Act, beyond stating that the following are to be the coins minted under the Act: gold—the dos or 10-tical piece; silver, the tical, two salung piece, and one salung; nickel—10 satang piece and 5 satang piece; bronze—satang. The standard fineness of the coins will be as follows:—The dos shall contain 900 parts of pure gold and 100 parts of copper. The tical shall contain 1900 parts of pure silver and 100 parts of copper. The subsidiary silver coins shall contain 800 parts of pure silver and 200 parts of copper. The nickel coins shall be composed of commercially pure nickel. The bronze satang shall contain 95 parts of commercially pure copper, 4 parts of tin and 1 part of zinc. It is laid down that any person may tender gold bullion for the purpose of being coined, and he will receive in exchange gold coins at the rate of 2,680 ticals for every 100 ticals' weight (1,500 grammes) of pure gold tendered. A notification is also issued describing the size, form, designs and inscriptions of the coins, but, passing that over, we come to the notification suspending the operation of the Gold Standard Law in certain particulars. It may be remarked here that the old bronze att and the nickel fuang, besides the sik, sio and solot are to disappear, and coins known as satangs are to take their place. By this notification in question the Government of Siam, holding that it is not, at present expedient to receive gold in Bangkok, has ordained that the Minister of Finance shall continue temporarily to receive gold abroad, and shall issue in Bangkok legal currency in exchange at the rate of 1,663 ticals for every 100 ticals' weight (1,500 grammes) of pure gold received or, 15 ticals per £1 sterling. That simply means that so long as silver remains depreciated the Act providing for the exchange of 2,680 ticals for the 100 ticals' weight of pure gold remains in abeyance. It is also notified that as there are in circulation considerable numbers of bent salongs and fuangs the immediate refusal of which would be a cause of complaint on the part of the public, all treasuries and officials receiving or collecting state dues will for a year from the date of the proclamation be authorised to accept these bent coins at their full nominal value. Some may wonder why the salungs and fuangs are bent; the answer is very simple. When the Siamese were gambling on mats spread on the floor, they found it a nuisance and a quickener of bad temper to fumble at the flat coins which they could not pick up easily with their long finger-nails, so they bent the coins double and thus the business of gambling was expedited and everybody was happy. The new law was published on the heels of the "Record Reign" celebrations in Bangkok, and we venture to think that its application will prove of greater value to the future of Siam and the prosperity of those settled in the country than all the Birthday Bridges, equestrian statues, summer palaces, and motor car meets that were projected in honour of the occasion. It will induce confidence in the foreign merchants, by instituting a fixed stability in the value of the currency of the country, and lead to a renewed vitality in the connection which Siam has already formed with European markets.

IMPORTANT QUESTION AT THE SANITARY BOARD.

(9th December.)

It is an excellent plan when the proceedings at a public meeting threaten to become painfully monotonous to propound a question which the inquirer is morally certain nobody can answer. The idea is not a new one by any means, but judiciously employed and put into effect there are great possibilities so far as results are concerned. For example, there was the elector at a meeting in support of a candidate for Parliamentary honours, who created a furious disturbance by repeatedly shouting: "What did Gladstone say in 1872?" At the instance of an indignant chairman, the noisy and clamorous individual was ignominiously ejected, after he had set the whole audience by the ears and kept a bewildered candidate on tenterhooks as to what Gladstone did say in 1872. When the rowdy elector was lifted into the street a policeman who was curious on the point asked what was the answer, what did Gladstone say? The reply of the pertinacious questioner was: "How do I know? All I wanted was to get out." And so Mr. Shelton Hooper, fearing that for once in a way the fortnightly meeting of the Sanitary Board would be tame and domestic and anxious also that he might leave with all the honours sprang the apparently simple question on the Board—Where is our Secretary? That was a problem which made the Board feel as if they had discovered a live bomb in their midst. Where was their Secretary? They silently communed with each other, but no answer was forthcoming although we may be permitted to imagine that they looked daggers at the stormy petrel. A resourceful chairman would speedily have set matters right by informing Mr. Hooper that by the Standing Orders he must give notice of questions involving the work of the staff and a really subservient acting secretary would have shouted "Order, order," to the utmost discomfiture of the heckler and the huge satisfaction of the other members. As it was, when Mr. Hooper gravelled the Board with his indiscreet query there was what is known as an "awkward pause." Did the Board know that the Secretary was in the Colony and, if so, why had he not resumed his duties? By this time Mr. Hooper is sufficiently old to know that all Government officials are as remarkable as George Washington, and consequently they found themselves tongue-tied. They are never guilty of terminological inexactitudes; they had heard a rumour, perhaps, that the Secretary or his wraith had been seen in Hongkong, but that was no proof that he was drawing his salary of £650 per annum. It is true that in commercial houses an assistant whose remuneration runs to £600 besides exchange compensation and other perquisites is occasionally expected to appear in the office, but a Government servant of that rank has his supernumeraries. So that to put a question concerning the whereabouts of the Secretary was, in a manner, *infra dig.* What we should like to know is—had Mr. Hooper any ulterior motive in submitting such a malapropos question, and, if so, what was his object in confounding the members of the Board? It is not to be believed that he was simply acting in a spirit of child-like innocence, because, unless we are strangely at sea, Mr. Hooper does not aspire to angelic beatitudes. He is known, however, to have a weakness—at least it may be considered so by the officials—of committing the heinous offence of saying things which might have been better left unsaid, and this was one of them—Where is our Secretary? And what does the simple reader make of his conclusion when the Board, composed entirely of officials, sat dumb, mute and inglorious? He gallantly waived the point, pleasantly remarking:—"Perhaps you would like it to stand over until next meeting? I don't wish to press for an immediate reply. I thought possibly someone else had been appointed." Again we are at fault if a sling does not lie somewhere in that last sentence. But this little interlude must have given spice to an otherwise dull and dreary meeting. What became of all the non-official members yesterday? Were they hunting that will-o'-the-wisp, the Secretary, or did they feel that their attendance was unnecessary? Certainly the agenda paper was remarkable for the absence of matters in which the community is interested. The Colonial Veterinary Surgeon reported that foot and mouth disease had broken out in the Colony and nobody thought it worth while to inquire how it is that these cattle diseases manage to gain a foothold in Hongkong. There must be some reason which has yet to be disclosed for these continual outbreaks among cattle which are carefully protected against infection from outside sources. Following on this subject of disease, the Board came naturally to the consideration of cemeteries, but even on the subject of graves none of the members would talk. The letter from the Colonial Secretary was very characteristic. Somebody wanted a cemetery at Kowloon, and the Colonial Secretary after reporting at some length that the selection of a site must be deferred as, "owing to the configuration of the country, great alterations are certain to occur as the peninsula is developed," proceeded to say that in any event the cemetery couldn't be provided because there was no money available for such a purpose. As regards Mr. Shelton Hooper's remarks with reference to the rickshaw coolies' accommodation at Kowloon, *the news will be received with general joy* over the water that their interests are at last being watched by this energetic member of a somewhat dilatory Board. The long-standing grievance of the coolies that their public stand was not swept and sand-papered twice a day will now disappear, and when they ease their tired limbs on mother earth they have the satisfaction of knowing that they are resting on well-aired, soundly-scrubbed, and perfectly hygienic, deodorised ground, swept twice a day by order of the Sanitary Board, and regularly inspected by an unofficial member of that august body. On the subject of fat-boiling, we confess we are not in a position to deal, although we have frequently seen the fat in the fire and could expatiate at length on the various results which proceed from such an "offensive trade." It will be seen that had the sole representative of the ratepayers present at the meeting yesterday failed to do his duty and kept silent as to the whereabouts of the Board's Secretary the meeting would have proved as flat and stale as a Tuesday procession.

MERCANTILE MARINE FACTS AND FIGURES.

Hard facts and figures, unillumined by a single scintillating ray, make up the annual report of Lloyd's Register of Shipping for the past year; but nevertheless there is much that should afford food for consideration among those whose main interests are inclined towards the mercantile marine. Lloyd's certificate is the guarantee of satisfaction which passes like an English sovereign in every port of the world, because like a good many other British institutions Lloyd's cannot be bought or corrupted nor does it descend to pettifogging trifles. A vessel which seeks to be classed at Lloyd's has either to be up to the standard or nothing: there is no half-way house, or patchwork certificate, and the reputation of Lloyd's is so firmly established and the name so familiar to the most stay-at-home that it acts as a sort of phylactery to the nervous. Last year was a period of general depression in the shipbuilding industry and it was not to be wondered at, in the circumstances, that the tonnage classed by the society showed a falling off from the high figures of the previous year, which represented the greatest amount of tonnage classed during any one year in the history of Lloyd's. At the same time, the falling off was nothing very extraordinary, because at the close of the year ended 30th June, 1908, 10,472 merchant vessels registering over 20 million tons gross, held classes assigned by the committee of Lloyd's Register. Of these 6,941 vessels with a tonnage of over 13 millions were of British ownership while the remainder, 3,531 vessels of 10,472 tons, carried foreign ensigns. During the year 648 new vessels went on the register, the gross tonnage of which was 1,151,791 tons. Of these 58½ per cent was built for the United Kingdom and 41½ per cent. for the British colonies and foreign countries. Attention has been drawn in previous reports to the increasing tendency of shipowners to order vessels of special types designed to meet the requirements of particular trades. Of the total number of vessels classed by the society during the year under review, a considerable proportion are vessels of this description, the society's rules providing for the highest class being assigned to vessels of all types, as long as the standard of strength is satisfactorily maintained. Last year some notable additions were made to the list of vessels which went on the Register. There was the *Mauretania*, for example, but it may be well to quote the official account, which steadfastly avoids anything like satisfaction or the suspicion of immoderate display of professional feeling. "The most noteworthy vessel classed during the last twelve months was the Cunard Steamship Co.'s quadruple turbine steamer *Mauretania*, 31,938 tons, built by Messrs. Swan, Hunter and Wigham-Richardson, Lim., at Wallsend-on-Tyne. Like the sister ship *Lusitania*, built by Messrs. John Brown & Co., Ltd., Clydebank, this vessel was constructed under the special supervision of this society's surveyors and holds the 100A1 class in Lloyd's Register. It is a matter of the greatest satisfaction to all concerned that the achievements of these fine vessels on their transatlantic voyages have so fully justified the confidence of both owners and builders. The 100A1 class has also been assigned during the year to the s.s. *Rotterdam*, 24,149 tons, built by Messrs. Harland & Wolff, Ltd., for the Holland-Amerika Line, which is the largest vessel registered in Holland, and to the s.s. *Tenyo Maru*, 13,454 tons, built by the Mitsu Bishi Dockyard & Engine Works, at Nagasaki, under the supervision of the society's exclusive officers at that port, for the Toyo Kisen Kaisha. This vessel, which is fitted to burn liquid fuel, is the largest yet constructed in Japan, and is the first built in that country in which turbine machinery has been installed. Two sister turbine vessels are under construction in the same yard and are also intended for the society's classification." The report proceeds to state that among other interesting vessels which have recently received or are intended for the 100A1 class are the twin screw steamer *Salsette* for the Aden-Bombay service of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co.; the two triple screw steamers, *Baron Gautsch*, and *Prinz Hohenlohe*, belonging to the Lloyd Austriaco; the Danish Training Ship *Viking*, which is to be used for the training of officers for the merchant service; the s.s. *Paul Pair*, and three other vessels on the longitudinal system recently patented by Mr. J. W. Isherwood; the transport *General Guerrero*, built at Barrow for the Mexican Government for the conveyance of troops, etc., and fitted with 6 ten centimetre guns; four large vessels with heavy scantlings for the seal fisheries; one for the Canadian Government, specially strengthened for service among ice on the Canadian Lakes; and the s.s. *Transporter*, built at Barrow, for the conveyance to Japan of two submarine vessels. Among dredgers classed by the society may be mentioned the *Lord Desborough*, built at Port Glasgow, for the Thames Conservancy. Seven vessels of over 10,000 tons have received the highest class award of the society during the past year, and these may be considered to rank with the finest specimens of shipbuilding afloat. These may be given in tabular form as follows:—

Name of Vessel.	Tons.	Owners.
Mauretania	31,938	Cunard Steam Ship Co., Ld.
Rotterdam	24,149	Holland-Amerika Line.
Tenyo Maru	13,454	Toyo Kisen Kaisha.
Orcoma	11,533	Pacific Steam Navition Co.
Pericles	10,925	G. Thompson & Co., Ld.
Heliopolis	10,897	Egyptian Mail Steam Ship Co., Ld.
Cairo	10,864	

A statement is published giving particulars of the number and location of the society's exclusive surveyors abroad at the present time, and from that it may be ascertained that no fewer than four special men are stationed at New York, Rotterdam, Copenhagen and Dusseldorf; there are three at the ports of Antwerp and Trieste, two at Nagasaki, Havre, Hamburg, Gothenburg, Genoa and Buenos Ayres and one each at other places including Hongkong, Singapore, Calcutta, Kobe, Marseilles, Philadelphia, Sydney, Yokohama, etc. It will be noticed that neither Shanghai nor Bombay, to take two shipbuilding centres at random, are provided with special officers representing Lloyd's, the idea being probably that the surveyors appointed at near-by ports will be available when required. These surveyors it should be stated are all salaried men employed by Lloyd's Register and are not permitted to engage in any other occupation. With regard to the important question of the load line, which was referred to in the report for 1906-7, when negotiations which were in progress between the British and German Governments with a view to the assimilation of the Freeboard Regulations of Great Britain and Germany, so as to admit of the mutual recognition of the loadline certificates issued by both countries, it is stated that a conference was subsequently held in Hamburg, composed of eight representatives dominated by the German Government, and eight by the British Government, among whom were Mr. H. J. Cornish, the Society's Chief Ship Surveyor, and one of the Principal Surveyors on his Staff. As a result of this meeting the German delegates agreed to amend their rules in order to arrive at as close an approximation as possible to the British rules, and the result was that we were enabled to submit to the respective Governments proposals which would bring about the desired agreement between the two sets of freeboard regulations. After considering the report presented by the British Delegates, the Board of Trade intimated to the German Government, through the Foreign Office, that they were prepared to accept the arrangement arrived at by the conference, and the German Government have since issued the text of their amended freeboard regulations, which will come into force on and after the 1st January, 1909. It is a matter for much congratulation to the two great nations concerned that this most important question has now been definitely settled. The French Government also have just adopted freeboard tables which appear to be substantially in agreement with the British regulations as regards the great majority of vessels, and it is hoped that the governments of other principal maritime powers will shortly see their way to take similar action. The record of the society for the period stated is one of steady progress, even in times of depression, and so far as the mercantile marine is concerned there does not seem to be much reason for pessimism, especially now when Britain holds the Atlantic Blue Ribbon and would also hold the Pacific record, probably, if the ports of departure and destination were the same as those of other lines.

IF THE FILIPINOS HAD A NAVY.

While all the great Powers are wrangling among themselves over the strengthening of their navies, and taunting each other with inefficiency in order to ease their nerves, the principalities and dependencies are likewise having a spell at the game of forming miniature navies on paper. Australia has definitely decided to form a navy of her own, and is prepared to spend vast sums—which would be far better employed in opening up the interior and buying out absentee landlords—on the costly luxury of decking herself out with a string of gunboats. What good they are likely to do nobody seems in a position to tell exactly, but no doubt some gallant tar will be found willing to "polish up the handle of the cabin-door" and thus become the ruler of a real navee. Now it seems that the Filipinos want a navy of sorts, and unless we are misinformed the Assembly or some such body has decided to allocate four million pesos towards this laudable object. One wonders if this is not a Yankee joke of sorts? What do the Filipinos, or if it comes to that the Insular Government, require with a handful of mechanical contrivances which will be out of date and only worth their value as scrap iron before their original cost has been defrayed? Are they afraid, also, that the Japanese are going to pounce upon some of the islands which make up the straggling archipelago? If not, what is the use of a navy for the Philippines? There is something to be said for Australia, because the people there seem to be so obsessed by the vision of maniacal Japanese swooping down on the Barren coast, where de Rougement laid the plot of his story, that they are hardly able to sleep at night. No matter that Australia has the biggest coast-line to protect of any country in the world, the fact that there were a few torpedo-boats at the service of the Government might help to calm those fears. But what about the Philippines where it is mostly coast-line, inhabited by aborigines? Every day the Manila papers give accounts of the fighting that is still in full swing throughout the islands. No one pretends, indeed, that the country is completely pacified, far less under control. Massacres and murders and treacherous attacks on individuals as well as army stragglers are as common to-day as they were ten years ago; only the venue has been shifted. In many parts of the islands, the Insular Government is openly flouted and ridiculed. Yet because a few red-hot firebrands have been foolishly given a modicum of power and the command of a certain amount of money, the Philippines must, forsooth, have a navy, as if they were fully provided for in every other respect. We are assuming, of course, that this story of the four million pesos which is to be devoted towards the establishment of a few water-wagons is not absolutely a gigantic piece of American bluff. The veriest child in administrative matters could point out directions to which four millions might very profitably be directed. It is only an indication, however, of what would happen were the Philippines to be handed over to the Filipinos. Cuba is lively enough as a centre of brain storms, but the Philippines would become a second Hayti and we have no desire to have another Hayti adjacent to Hongkong. We have quite enough troubles of our own, and our time is fully occupied with keeping an eye on Canton and another on ourselves. If the money is intended for the maintenance of a regular revenue service, there might be little objection to the proposal, although four millions seem an extraordinary sum for such a small purpose. Of course, when the American Government declares that foreign shipping shall be taboo in the Philippine trade it may be necessary to have a considerable number of coast guard vessels on scouting duty; and if the Chinese should attempt the smuggling of opium or other prohibited articles on a large scale the revenue authorities would be compelled to adopt the most stringent measures to outwit the contrabandists. But there is nothing at present to show that such precautions are necessary. Rather, we should commiserate the luckless wights who had thrown in their lot with the smuggling fraternity and bid them an eternal farewell if they started on a tramp across the hills. Probably all that these political protagonists want is a saucy little gunboat or two with an ample quarterdeck where their lady friends may sip their afternoon tea. For, once aboard the lugger and the lady's mine still holds good. China, as everybody knows, has hopes of a navy too, and if the Filipinos are to get their toy outfit, it should not be impossible to arrange a small scrap between the two, for a purse mutually agreed on and whatever side-bets can be placed. It would be far more diverting than the "Morocco Bound" antics of Abdul Aziz and Muley Hafid and it wouldn't be half so dangerous for the combatants. There are surely stage managers enough to arrange matters satisfactorily, and it is a well-known fact that the Far East to a man is thirsting for a new sensation. We should, however, point out that a navy is hardly to be compared with an Irishman's pig; it neither pays the rent nor keeps itself. Even a Filipino navy could not put in its spare time foraging for "chow," and if the engineers were Moros there might be difficulties experienced through the disappearance of engine-grease. To build even six destroyers, nine submarines and two depot or parent ships—which is the Australian idea—would cost over twelve million pesos so that we have a fair idea what a third of that sum would provide. The annual charge for these vessels on the Australian plan would be three and a half million pesos, or in the case of the Filipinos, about a million. Whether the result would be worth it is another thing. But if the Filipinos want their navy and they have the money to pay for it by all means let them procure it. Santa Claus and perhaps they may get it.

A BAZAAR in aid of the Hongkong Tuberculosis Committee's Fund for the Prevention of Consumption and Charity will be held on Wednesday, 16th December, in the Theatre Royal, Queen's Road Central, on the occasion of the unveiling of the memorial of the Victoria Nursing Home.

Britain's Sea Supremacy.

A REFERENCE BOOK FOR NAVY ENTHUSIASTS.

"NAVY LEAGUE ANNUAL."

Naturally in a port which is regarded as a first-class naval station, a fact which is continually being drummed into the ears of those who fail to recognise the importance of the China squadron to Hongkong, a reference book backed by such names as the Duke of Argyll, the Marquis of Graham, Mr. Carlyon Bellairs, M.P., and others is bound to prove of interest to a considerable section of the community. The reference book in question is the "Navy League Annual," which now enters its second year of publication. No doubt there are many who while they are firm believers in maintaining the two-Power standard of strength in the Navy, do not always see eye to eye with the Navy League, but we are assured that the Annual is not so much devoted to the booming of the League as to the wider diffusion of knowledge concerning the relative position occupied by Great Britain's first line of defence as contrasted with the navies of other countries. Last year when we reviewed the initial issue of the Annual we were happy to discover that the names of many, if not all, of the expert critics on naval affairs were attached to articles of surpassing interest. On this occasion, it seems to us that more attention has been given to the technical side of naval doings than the general survey which was the feature of the first volume. And for that reason it is to be feared that the latest volume will hardly appeal with the same force to the onlooker, who cannot claim to be a student of the intricacies of armament and mechanical contrivances.

For example, the special articles have been reduced from fifteen to eleven, which the Editor considers an excellent feature, seeing that the contributors to the 1908-9 Annual are not limited by the exigencies of space. We take it that the Editor knows his own business best, but from our point of view the reduction is a distinct mistake. It means that the more rabid the writer is on his particular hobby, the more space will he take to convince the reader that he, and he alone, is right, and long before that has been attained the ordinary reader will lay down the book through sheer boredom. The headings to the articles are capital, but the prospect they suggest is rarely realised. There is little of that chatty heart-to-heart talk which distinguished the previous Annual. Rather the writers are so painfully in earnest that they slide into abstruse calculations which will, we are afraid, leave the non-naval man in a quandary as to what the author is trying to get at. This is somewhat unfortunate, because nearly every Britisher, and especially those who live in Hongkong, has a sub-conscious idea that it is his duty to know generally all that is important to be known about the progress of the British Navy. But he does not care for it to be ladled out in hard chunks of petrified facts. Rather he would absorb his information in a dilettante fashion, gathering in the principal items much in the same way as he scoops out the sultanas in plum-pudding. Are there no racy anecdotes or grim tragedies, if you like, of the sea to illustrate the dry-as-dust figures which parade themselves on almost every page of the Annual? A single story illustrative of a plain proposition is worth a bushel of arguments.

But when all is said and done, the Annual is certainly an important addition to the works of reference with regard to the navies of the world. The Editor, Mr. Alan Burgoyne, is responsible for a survey of the progress of the British Navy and Foreign Navies, but the equally interesting reviews on the condition of the Japanese and American Navies, the Dual Alliance (France and Russia), the Triple Alliance (Germany, Italy and Austria), and the brief references to the floating strength of minor nations are unsigned, so that the precise value to be attached to them is an unknown quantity. Mr. Burgoyne is a thorough-going believer in an all-powerful Navy for the United Kingdom. So far as we can make out, he would have all the great ship-building yards in the country working at full pressure constructing additions to the various units. In dealing with the British Fleet he talks somewhat strenuously of the people in Great Britain who are shivering because the Admiralty in their opinion is not sufficiently progressive. Was it not Sir John Fisher, who should know something about the Navy, who said that the inhabitants of Great Britain might sleep peacefully in their beds at night in the safe knowledge that they had a Navy which would scare anything in sight. Yet Mr. Burgoyne is not satisfied. He remarks: "Last year it was pointed out that, in view of the strenuous naval competition across the North Sea, it would not be possible to continue reducing our estimates annually, and a hope was expressed that in the interests of national security, and to allay the undoubted feeling of discomfort, not to say distrust, throughout the kingdom it would be wise to lay down ships additional to those suggested, and thereby ease the burden of the future. The Admiralty could doubtless put forward excellent reasons for demanding no more than two armoured vessels this year, but it is questionable whether the doubling of that number would not have proved sounder than the adopted policy of putting off the evil day when force of circumstances will dictate the commencement of a far larger number of units, and thus heavily swell the estimates out of all proportion at, may be, a period inconvenient for the Chancellor of the Exchequer." There is nothing half-hearted about that. The "evil day" is approaching, and the Admiralty will stand condemned for their laxity. To the block with them, at once.

It is with genuine satisfaction that we learn our submarines are all right. We lead the world and by 31st March next, we shall have no less than sixty of these boats complete, every one of which is better than the other which preceded it. Our torpedo-boats are not up to much, nor are the torpedo-destroyers all they should be; still there is hope, for which we are sincerely thankful. Fortunately our battleships are all right, and the *Indomitable* beats the American cruiser *Columbia* into a cocked hat.

It would be well if the Editor of the *Annual* could give us some idea of the cost of the various vessels he enumerates. All we know is that the *Dreadnought* cost £1,600,000. What was the contract price of the latest cruisers, etc. when completed and ready to be commissioned? We had occasion to search the other day for an estimate of the average price of gunboats and torpedo craft built in British yards but no information could be got from the Annual on this vital point.

With regard to the Duke of Argyll's contribution—it is a poem. Whether it is a good poem or otherwise we leave to others to say. As it is printed in special black type it must be one of the features of the volume. All we can say is, it should make a first-class ragtime ditty.

Before closing, we should like to refer to an admirable contribution by Lieut. Richard Bevyon Orde, entitled "A frigate's commission" from August, 1859 to March, 1861. It is a little gem of old time memories, and is full of reminiscences of Hongkong, Singapore and China.

The Navy League Annual will undoubtedly find a place in the library of all students of Naval affairs, and the extraordinary amount of technical knowledge displayed by the writers should certainly keep Hongkong admirers of our main defence thoroughly *au fait* with the existing conditions. It is published at a nominal price by the Navy League, at 13 Victoria Street, London, S.W.

THE LATE RICHARD MARKWICK.

THE CORONER'S INQUEST.

The circumstances surrounding the death of Mr. Richard Markwick formed the subject of an inquiry by Mr. G. W. King, H.B.M.'s Coroner, yesterday afternoon, reports the *Shanghai Times* of 1st inst.

Dr. Goode deposed to having received a telephone message at a few minutes past 9 a.m. on November 27, asking him to proceed to the China Mutual Life Insurance Co. in Canton Road where he was told a man had shot himself. Arriving at a quarter past nine o'clock he found the deceased lying on his back with his legs crossed, and a cushion under his head. He was bleeding from the nose, both ears, and mouth. His clothes were not at all disarranged. He was unconscious, and breathing heavily, evidently dying. He did not regain consciousness or speak at all, and died at 9.27 o'clock. Subsequently witness made an autopsy at the Mortuary. He undressed the body, and found the collar and shirt blood-stained. There were no bruises on the body, but the palm and fingers of the right hand were stained with powder. On the right side of the vault of the skull there was an elevated comminuted fracture of the bone. In the roof of the mouth there was a hole, evidently the point of entry of a bullet. On removing the scalp the bullet was found lying among the fragments of bone at the vault of the skull. Witness produced the bullet. Witness made an examination of the organs of the body. He had treated the deceased off and on for two years, and witness told him about two months ago that the general state of his health was very unsatisfactory. Deceased had suffered a good deal from insomnia, and apart from his health he was rather nervous that the insurance company would fill his place. Witness spoke to the Managing Director and was told to tell deceased that he was to stay away until he was fit to come back to work, his salary would be paid, and a place kept for him. For the last month witness thought that another doctor had treated the deceased. The cause of death was haemorrhage and laceration of the brain substance by a revolver wound. He would say that the wound was self-inflicted. Evidently he put the barrel of the revolver in his mouth, fired with his left hand, covering his mouth with the right hand. This would explain the blackening of the right hand.

Raymond Arthur Killalee said that he was employed at the China Mutual. Coming to office a few minutes before nine o'clock on Friday he saw the deceased about to enter the back door. He was carrying a box, and knowing he was rather weak witness went to help him up. When witness reached him he was on the first landing, and witness asked if he wanted any help. To this deceased said no, and witness went on into the general office. Deceased had at this time laid the box on the window. About two minutes afterwards they heard a sound like a cracker exploding, and later on going down the back stairs to the office below he saw Mr. Markwick's body lying on the landing with his head against the wall. Witness asked if he wanted any help, but receiving no answer he ran back to the general office and called Mr. Roza. The latter examined him and first remarked that he had fainted and then that he had shot himself. Dr. Goode was then telephoned for.

Carlos Maria da Roza, clerk in the China Mutual, gave evidence as to knowing Mr. Markwick for two years. On Friday he was called by the previous witness to see Mr. Markwick, whom he found sitting on the second step from the first landing with his head leaning against the wall. Witness shouted in his ears asking what was the matter but receiving no reply thought he had fainted. Then he noticed a revolver lying in a pool of blood, and seeing he had shot himself witness called for Mr. Killalee. The body was then removed upstairs. Mr. Markwick had not come to the office for about two weeks previously.

Edward Randall, telephone clerk at the Central Police Station, stated that he was on duty on Friday morning when a telephone message came at 9.15. It was from the China Mutual, and was to the effect that a foreigner had shot himself. The charge-room sergeant sent witness to the office where he found the deceased lying on his back on the second landing. Dr. Goode was in attendance. On the window-sill on the first flight of stairs witness found a deed box fastened with a strap, while on the box there were three letters and a hard felt hat. He found the revolver on the stairs, and this along with the box and letters he handed to Det. Prosser who had then arrived. Dr. Goode told them to take deceased to the hospital, but as they were taking him downstairs life was pronounced extinct.

The Coroner found that death was caused by a bullet wound in the head self-inflicted whilst in a state of temporary insanity.

GINGER AND GINSENG.

A correspondent writes to the *Rangoon Gazette*:—The Burmese call ordinary ginger ginseng. But they are two quite different articles. The best ginseng comes from Manchuria and is highly esteemed in China, the best description selling for its weight in gold. Even the semi-wild quality from Corea is worth its weight in silver. A considerable quantity of cultivated ginseng has of late years been imported into China from San Francisco. Though ginseng is usually described in China as a medicine it really appears to be more of a tonic possessing in Chinese opinion marvellous restorative qualities. When a distinguished Chinese statesman is ill the Emperor as a special honour occasionally bestows an ounce or two of ginseng upon him. European physicians have decided that the virtues of ginseng are largely imaginary, but Dr. Porter Smith mentions having seen some cases in which life appeared to be prolonged for a time by its use. A Russian traveller states that one of the Cossacks of his party having chopped off a finger accidentally with an axe, applied ointment made from ginseng and the wound rapidly healed. In Manchuria a Chinese imperial edict made it at one time a State monopoly, much as durians were declared Royal property in the times of Burmese Kings. As there appears to be no great difficulty in its cultivation, and it is so much more valuable than ordinary ginger, which grows well in Burma, attempts might be profitably made to introduce its cultivation here. Mr. E. H. Parker, the former Adviser on Chinese Affairs, mentions that he tried it once for sciatica which he was suffering from when in Corea, and that the only effect was to make him feel hilarious and full of nervous force. An American consular official there told to Mr. Parker he had once tried it and that it made him a "perspire blood," so it is evident it must be cautiously used.

"KALEIDOSCOPIC" JOURNALISM.

STORY OF A HONGKONG ANNUAL WHICH BECAME A QUARTERLY.

Another new periodical, which is to be known as *The Kaleidoscope*, an extraordinary though not ill-fitting name, has just appeared in Hongkong, but the average reader will find some difficulty in classifying it. The original intention of the promoters was that it should be an annual, but the advertisements poured in so thickly that the first idea was rapidly dispelled and it was decided to make the publication a quarterly. From the publishers' point of view no decision could be wiser, for if there are profits to be snapped up it is high time that even our amateur journalistic friend should gain their reward. As we have said, the *K* is a quarterly, but a quarterly what? It looks like a magazine; a casual glance would lead one to believe it to be a magazine, one of the popular sort, but on closer acquaintance it appears to be a glorified advertising medium. Nearly everybody who proclaims the superiority of his wares receives a page or more of fulsome encomiums apparently as a sort of discount for cash. We have nothing whatever to say against that system; it is a matter which rests entirely between the advertiser and the "compiler," but the man-in-the-street who is inveigled into reading a long dissertation about nothing particular only to find in the end that he has been wading through what is, known in newspaper parlance as a "puff" is apt to feel aggrieved. Not that there are no original articles, original in more ways than one, in the quarterly *K*. For example we have a poem entitled "Christmas Bells"—a most pathetic ballad, as two lines, not the pick of the bunch by any means, will show:—

"Whilom, the sea they hoarsely boom or fright
The good ships from the rocks."

It reminds one of Edgar Allan Poe's tintinabulation of the bells. A couple of pages of American jokes which should raise the spirits of the young ones gathered round the Yule log, are thrown in gratuitously. The hypocondriac has an article in execrable taste on the ways of the young men of Hongkong, exaggerating foibles which are common to the whole world and spitting out venom with such rancour that it is to be feared no self-respecting family who have sons born in Hongkong will have anything to do with a kaleidoscope which indulges in such mud-slinging. It is anonymously signed "The Tadpole" which is a most appropriate name for a writer who wallows in slime. Other articles of more or less interest as the reader is inclined deals with the "Merchant *vs.* Missionary as a factor of civilisation" and "Inventions and Discoveries of the Age." Mr. A. S. Parker, who contributes the latter, has achieved the impossible. He has condensed into about 1,500 words a subject which can hardly be contained in the *Encyclopedia Brittanica*. Mr. Horace Wyndham tells "How Britain gained Hongkong" and introduces some new facts which past historians have overlooked. For example, he says: "Like the majority of our Colonial possessions, the island of Hongkong was not brought under British sway without resorting to the power of the sword. The fields which to-day bear smiling crops were once dyed red with English blood, and many a gallant soldier, now sleeping peacefully in the Happy Valley cemetery met his death in the fighting which our occupation of this dependency occasioned." Many people will be interested in the article "Is New York civilised?" while others will wonder whether the author of "Maud" is not a gross plagiarist, unless, of course, he was the original writer of the story, which we fancy we have read in a dozen papers, American and colonial. There are 16 portraits of "Our Public Men," and as we have met them one and all in the flesh it is reasonable to believe that they are "island worthies." Some pictures entitled "Local street scenes" remind us of a weekly long defunct, while the caricatures on St. Andrew's Day were scarcely worth resurrecting. And that is about the sum total of the leading and pictorial matter of *The Kaleidoscope*. As an outlet for enterprising advertisers it is admirable, but that the man who wants reading matter over Sunday should be mulcted in the sum of 50 cents for the "compilation" seems rather stiff. The front page is adorned with an authentic portrait of Confucius, and from our recollection of the sage when a boy it certainly resembles him, especially about the feet. As a first attempt at bringing out a quarterly, *The Kaleidoscope* will stand the closest scrutiny. Mr. T. C. Swaby is "compiler" and we look anxiously forward to the second number which will appear on race week.

SIAM'S NEW COINAGE.

The *Siam Observer* prints the text of a provisional translation of the new Gold Standard Act. The Act is too long to reproduce but it may be stated that the theoretical unit is to be the tical of 558 centigrammes pure gold. The silver tical of 135 grammes shall have a value equal to the gold unit. The tical shall be divided into 100 satang. The coins to be minted are the 1 Dos or 10 tical gold piece, the tical, two salung and salung in silver, the 10 and 5 satang in nickel and the satang in bronze. Gold and one tical pieces are to be unlimited legal tender; subsidiary silver up to five ticals nickel and bronze up to one tical. Foreign coins not legal tender unless expressly provided for. A stability reserve fund is to be built up, to consist of a sum of 12,000,000 ticals transferred to the fund, of the gross profit on coinage, and any other sources of profit and income emanating from the fund. The fund kept in Siam shall be in gold and silver, either bullion or coin. Demonetisation will be accomplished gradually.

LUNACY PROCEEDINGS IN PENANG.

Some months ago lunacy proceedings were instituted, under Chapter 39 of the Civil Procedure Code, 1907, against the well-known Malay millionaire, Mahomed Ariff, by Jelliah, one of his wives, and Pawanteh, one of his grandsons.

Mr. Nambyar appeared for the applicants, while Mr. Armstrong opposed the application on behalf of Mahomed Ariff.

The enquiry was held *in camera*, and extended over several sittings. The judgment, which had been reserved, was delivered yesterday.

The allegation of the applicants was that Mahomed Ariff, who is said to be seventy years old and whose estate is estimated to be worth about three million dollars, was mentally incapable of managing his affairs and that, therefore, the estate had been mismanaged to the detriment of its numerous beneficiaries. The allegation of mental aberration was supported by medical evidence. The application was objected to by Mahomed Ariff on the ground that he was mentally capable of managing his estate, though his memory was somewhat impaired; and that he had appointed his second son, Wan Chi, to be his attorney and manage the estate under his direction. Mahomed Ariff also produced medical evidence to show that nothing was wrong with his mind except that he was a little forgetful.

His Lordship, in a lengthy judgment, decided that no order could be made.—*Straits Echo*.

LODGE NAVAL AND MILITARY No. 848, S.C.

INSTALLATION CONCERT.

The some 200 members and friends of the above lodge passed a very enjoyable evening last Friday night at the Masonic Hall, Zetland Street, at the Installation Concert and Supper given in honour of Wor. Bro. J. C. West.

The large hall was tastefully decorated for the occasion, and after an excellent supper, the following programme was gone through, every item receiving well-merited applause, frequent encores being demanded by the large and appreciative audience. An orchestra of the 2nd Batt., "The Buffs" discoursed some very well-rendered pieces during the supper and at the concert, the piano accompaniments being played by Mr. J. P. McCarthy, A.S.C.

PROGRAMME.

1—March ..... "Hunyadi Laslo" ..... Orchestra.
2—Song (Comic) ..... Bandsman Peate.
3—Whistle Solo ..... Bandsman Englefield.
4—Recitation.. "Professor Choker" L.L.D.. Mr. Young.
5—Song (Comic) ..... Private Collier.
6—Song ..... Mr. Sanders.
7—Song ..... Mr. J. P. McCarthy.
8—Song ..... Selected..... Mr. Hutcheson, R.E.
9—Trio (Comic) ..... Coonville Coloured Band.
10—Song ..... Selected ..... Capt. Parke

Interval of 10 minutes during which Orchestra will play.

1—Piccolo Solo ..... Bandsman Englefield.
2—Song (Comic) ..... Mr. Hutcheson, R.E.
3—Song ..... Selected ..... Mr. Sanders.
4—Song (Comic) ..... Private Collier.
5—Song ..... Selected ..... Bandsman Peate.
7—Song ..... Selected (Coon).. Bandsman Englefield.
8—Song ..... Selected ..... Mr. J. Cooke.
9—Song (Comic) ..... Selected.... Mr. Hutcheson, R.E.

God Save the King.

Accompanist ..... Mr. McCarthy, A.S.C.

OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1909.

Right Worshipful Master—Wor. Bro. J. C. West.
Immediate Past Master—Wor. Bro. E. A. Chapman.
Wor. Senior Warden—Bro. G. W. Coysh.
Treasurer—Bro. Jas. McLeod.
Chaplain—Bro. Jacobs.
Senior Deacon—Bro. H. Woodward.
Inner Guard—Bro. E. W. Dawson.
Wor. Junior Warden—Bro. J. Hutcheson.
Secretary—Bro. J. J. Blake.
Junior Deacon—Bro. A. Charlton.
Director of Ceremonies—Wor. Bro. A. W. Hill.
Stewards—Bro. C. H. Parkinson and Bro. C. Frith.
Tyler—Bro. J. Vanstone.

OPIUM IN THE MALAY STATES.

INCREASE IN DUTIES.

We had, in a recent issue, reported that the import duty on opium is to be so greatly increased in Perak, from the beginning of next year, that Chandu will become practically beyond the reach of the Chinese coolie. The decrease of the imports of the drug will, we anticipate, be so large, that the Government revenue is bound to suffer, notwithstanding the greatly enhanced rate of duties. But the loss, if any, will fall on the Government, as the outcome of its own policy, and there are no vested interests to suffer thereby. Mr. Birch had suggested an increase of 25% on the existing duty. Had the recommendation of the resident been exactly conformed to, it would have increased the duty from $560 to $700, per chest. But it has been decided to go much further, and we may look forward to a good deal of smuggling, prosecutions and rewards to informers.

But this policy is not to be confined to Perak. It is now reported that the increase is also to be given effect to, in Pahang, from 1st January next, though the Fatmer's lease does not expire before the end of the year 1909. It is stated that Government proposes to avail itself of a special clause in the contract with the Farmer, which enables the Resident to raise the rates of duty at any time during the continuance of the lease. In the exercise of this right the Farmer has been notified, under instructions from the High Commissioner, that the rate of duty is to be raised from $440 to $1,200 or an increase of $760 per chest. Had the Farmer been entitled to appropriate this increase he might have been amply compensated for the inevitable decline in the quantity of opium imported. But the excess duty levied is to be collected for the Government by the Farmer, as its agent, being remunerated by a three per cent. commission on the receipts. Under the new arrangement, the Farmer stands to lose nearly as much as the Government is bound to gain by the enhancement. There has already been, last year, a decrease of 14 chests compared to that of 1906 in consequence of an increase in the price from $766 to $789 per chest. The contemplated increase in the duty by $760 will just double the price, and consequently halve the consumption. Assuming that it will only diminish by 100 chests next year, the Farmer would lose $44,000 in the shape of duty thereon at existing rates. Against this loss, the only set-off would be a commission of 3 per cent. payable on the excess receipts credited to Government. The net loss of the Farmer would be about $40,000, while the Government revenue would be increased by not less than double the sum. We should think that, in all fairness, the Farmer ought to be allowed a rebate of $440 in his rental, on every chest that the imports fall short of those of the current year, as a natural result of this enormous and almost prohibitive augmentation in the duty.—*Perak Pioneer*.

NEW AMERICAN STAMPS.

HEAD OF WASHINGTON IN RELIEF ON ALL OF THEM BUT THE ONE CENT.

Washington, 11th October.

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing has completed designs suggested by Postmaster-General Meyer for a new issue of postage stamps. The new stamps will be of the following denominations: One cent, two, three, four, five, six, eight, ten, fifteen and one dollar. The two dollar and five denominations now in use will not be reprinted.

It will be some weeks before all the denominations will be put on the market. However, the two-cent stamps will be first distributed, and it is expected that shipments to Postmasters will commence some time in November.

The new issue has been designed with the object of obtaining the greatest simplicity commensurate with artistic results. The profile has been taken in each instance instead of a full view, stamps are of a similar design, containing a head in an ellipse, the only decoration being laurel leaves on either side of the ellipse.

The lettering is in straight lines, at the top being "U.S. Postage," and at the bottom the words "Two cents." The one-cent stamp contains the head of Franklin, while all others will bear that of Washington, taken from busts by Houdon. Thus one of the most notable differences in the new issue will be the minimum of lettering. The colours are the reds and blues of the early stamps.

Director Ralph of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing regards the new stamps as the most artistic ever issued by the Government.

CHINESE CURRENCY.

From the Minutes of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce it will be seen that the indiscriminate issue of bank notes by Chinese Banks has again occupied the attention of the Committee. The matter, indeed, is considered of such vital importance that representations are to be made directly to Peking in the hope that the Central Government may be induced to adopt restrictive measures before the evil affects seriously the credit of China, and these representations, it is understood, will be backed by the efforts of the China Association in another quarter. Five months ago we drew attention to the number of native bank notes circulating in the Settlement and pointed out that, as far as could be learned, they were issued for the most part without a cash reserve. To-day there are no less than seven banks with a note circulation amounting in all, it is understood, to $24,000,000, while two other banking institutions have been established and are said to be contemplating an issue of notes. In some cases the note issue of a bank is either equivalent to or greater than the amount of the paid-up capital; in others a bank started by an official loan, which has been subsequently withdrawn, will have notes in circulation amounting to over $1,000,000, with no reserve, though the issue is said to be guaranteed by the Provincial Government. In addition to these Banks various Provinces have issued notes with no special reserve against them and without fixing the final limits of the issue. This practice has been discountenanced by the Peking Government, but no definite steps have been taken to stop it, and the system is said to be spreading. For the present this paper money circulates with few or no restrictions in Chinese hands, although all attempts to persuade foreign banks to recognize it have hitherto failed. But it is clear that ultimately depreciation will result, with consequent loss to holders; and even if popular dissatisfaction does not lead to disturbances, a dislocation of trade and the possible lowering of China's credit are likely to result.

As is already known, the Chinese Government has given its attention to the question of currency, and as a result of a memorial from the Government Council a Decree was issued on October 5 on the subject of a uniform national currency. From these documents, it will be seen that the Kuping tael has been chosen as the standard coin, and it is understood that silver amounting to over one million taels in weight has already been sent by the Ministry of Finance to the Tientsin mint for the purpose of coining the new currency. The reasons which have induced the authorities to select the Kuping tael in preference to the dollar are not, without interest. We are told in the first place that eleven provinces advocated the tael, while eight were in favour of the dollar. So far there would seem to have been a fairly equal division of opinion. From "the point of national dignity," however, it seemed to the Government Council that the country "ought to try to stand alone" and that it could not afford "to throw away our sovereign rights in order to gratify the wishes of others;" while, continues the Memorial, "from the point of view of the people we should follow a course suitable to the greater number and not change a tradition of the country for the convenience of the open ports or trading marts." Starting from these premises it is not a matter for surprise that the Government Council was able to make light of all arguments that ran counter to its predilections. The existence of an enormous supply of dollars already in circulation, the objection that the higher denomination will tend to raise the cost of living, the difficulty of reckoning exchange with 1,549 cash to the tael—all such points are brushed aside, and the fiat has gone forth that the country is to have a tael coinage.

The present state of Chinese finance, however, provides a strong argument against the Government committing itself to any definite course until it has taken expert foreign advice upon the currency question. In spite of the sound financial reputation that the country has enjoyed in the past, it has recently adopted a most reckless attitude towards the currency, especially towards the money of the millions, the standard in which wages and all small retail transactions are settled. It is calculated that in 1905 and 1906 over nine and a half thousand million ten-cash pieces were struck by the various mints, while copper cash notes to an equal amount were issued during the same period. The only excuse offered for this indiscriminate minting out of all proportion to the economic requirements of the country is that it was a temporary expedient to tide over a period of stringency, for the copper cash could be minted for three-fifths of its face value. Now that with the fall in exchange the profit on the coinage of copper cash has disappeared, the same disregard for the economic welfare of the people finds expression in the issue of unsecured bank notes, and on the top of the present currency confusion the Government proposes to force into circulation a new coinage that must inevitably place fresh obstacles in the way of trade. It is to be hoped, therefore, that while representations on the irresponsible issue of bank notes are being made, the Peking Government will be urged to reconsider its decision regarding the tael currency. In spite of the confident opinion of the Government Council the drawbacks already enumerated to the introduction of the tael as the standard coin are serious, and if minting has already been begun, it should be discontinued until fresh advice on the subject has been taken. Above all the further issue of bank notes should be immediately prohibited until regulations controlling the terms of issue have been published, while no further subsidiary silver coins or copper cash should be struck until they circulate at par (the par rate for cash being definitely fixed). The appointment of a Board of Currency with central control of all mints is also required, and no steps calculated to complicate an already confused situation should be taken until a complete financial policy has been agreed upon by the Government under expert advice.—*N. C. D. News*.

MAN-EATERS NEAR PORT DICKSON.

It would appear that two man-eating tigers are at large in the neighbourhood of Pasir Panjang, some miles from Port Dickson. One day last week a report was brought in to the latter place that a Chinaman had been killed by a tiger. Two Europeans thereupon went out with rifles. They did not find the tiger, but discovered the body of the Chinaman which was in a terribly mangled condition. The tiger had evidently sprung at his throat and killed him, and subsequently devoured portions of him. The Chinaman was the owner of a small gambier plantation on which the lalang had been allowed to grow up high. Investigation revealed the tracks of a tiger all over the plantation. Some time ago a man was taken by a tiger, and the Malays declare that the tracks in this case were different, so that there is good reason to suppose that there are two of the brutes prowling around this neighbourhood.—*Malay Mail*.

THE CHEKIANG RAILWAY.

On the 28th day of the 9th moon (October 22) the Waiwupu received from Sir J. N. Jordon a dispatch in which the British Minister states that he has received a letter from the representative of the British and Chinese Corporation complaining of the infringement of some of the conditions of the Chêkiang Railway Loan Agreement on the part of the Chêkiang Railway Company. The British Minister says that although a British Engineer-in-Chief has been selected and appointed by the Ministry of Posts and Communications, the appointment has not been officially approved by the Railway Company. Sir J. N. Jordan adds that some of the sections of the Railway are being badly constructed, and that the materials and goods used are not of good and satisfactory quality. He states that although the British Engineer-in-Chief arrived in Shanghai more than two months ago, he has not since been asked to discharge his duties; and that, unless drastic measures are immediately taken to ameliorate this unsatisfactory state of affairs, it is feared that not only the interests of the Chinese Government and the Railway Company, but also those of the subscribers to the Loan will be injured. The British Minister adds that he is at a loss to know why the Central Government should allow the Railway Company to treat the Agreement with such levity. In conclusion he requests the Chinese Government to instruct the Railway Company to act in strict accordance with the settlement of the Loan Agreement.—*N. C. D. News*.

ILLICIT OPIUM.

THREE MEN MULCTED IN HEAVY FINES.

Last Friday afternoon, Excise Officers boarded the steamer *Loongsang* in search of illicit opium, this trick of hoodwinking the Government having become frequent of late. Police-Sergeant Wilson put himself at the head of affairs and the party began poking their official noses in every nook and corner in the hope of a "capture." They had not gone far when their bulging optics discerned suspicious-looking packages in the fo'c'sle. There were twenty-two boxes containing eighty-eight taels of opium and two tins containing eight taels. In the ventilator on the bridge, seven bags containing 129 tins of the drug, equivalent to 516 taels were discovered. The illicit article was taken possession of, and this morning, three tallymen were charged with having the drug in their possession. Yam Ping, the first defendant, put the others hopelessly in the shade by being fined $500, while Lau Sum Chun and Chan Pin, the remaining two, had each to pay half that sum.

THE POPULATION OF JAVA.

Java, which is hardly one-third larger than Ireland, offers an interesting problem to students of the law of population.

The Javanese increase fast in number under conditions which were first investigated scientifically, in 1869, by a medical officer in the Government service there named Bleeker. He came to the conclusion that the people of Java, though their average duration of life is shorter than that of the Dutch, would multiply faster than the people of Holland. Dr. Bleeker laid it down that the population of Java doubled in 35 years, while, in Holland, it takes 70 years to double the population.

He forecasted that the population of Java, which stood at 14 millions in 1865, would exceed 28 millions in 1900. The actual counting shows him to be surprisingly in the right. On December 31, 1900, the census returns showed the population to be 28,386,121. During the twenty years since 1880, the population of the island had increased 45.3 per cent. Facts having proved Dr. Bleeker's theory, the population of Java in 1935 will stand at about 56 millions!

At present, the pressure of population is so great as to arouse anxiety. What will it be a generation hence?

OPIUM IN PAHANG.

REPORTED INCREASE IN DUTY.

There has been a rumour for some time past that the duty on opium imported into the Federated Malay States would shortly be considerably increased; and this has been confirmed at least in so far as the State of Pahang is concerned. In accordance with a clause in the contract for Pahang Farms for the years 1908-9, the British Resident of that State can at any time during the continuance of the period of the contract alter the duties leviable on the import of spirits, opium or tobacco so as to be higher than the duties in force at the time of signing the aforesaid contract.

It is reported that it has been found necessary to take advantage of this clause, and the British Resident, under instructions from the High Commissioner of the Federated Malay States, has intimated to the present Farmer that from January 1st, 1909, the rate of import duty on opium will be raised from $440 per chest to $1,200 per chest. The additional duty to be collected is therefore $760, or an increase of 172.72 per cent.—*Malay Mail*.

A COOLIE accidentally met his death last Saturday morning in Leighton Hill Road. The unfortunate man was engaged in the demolition of a verandah near No. 1 Police Station, when an iron rod fell on his head and tossed him into the road. Death was instantaneous. The deceased, whose name is unknown, was thirty years of age.

THE *Japan Chronicle* of 21st ult. says:—There was a very large assemblage of foreign residents at the American hatoba at Kobe yesterday afternoon to bid farewell to Mr. Alf. Woolley, the Chief Agent for Japan of the P. & O. Company, who left by the *Oriental* for England. Mr. Woolley has resided in Japan for a good many years, and has taken a very active part in the public life of the foreign communities, having been stationed both at Kobe and Yokohama. Latterly he held the post of Chairman of the Kobe Foreign Board of Trade and was also President of the Kobe Club, but, whether he resided in Yokohama or Kobe, Mr. Woolley has always been foremost in rendering ungrudging service in the interests of the community. On Thursday (19th instant) the members of the Kobe Club assembled at the Club to witness the presentation of a silver salver and tea service, which had been subscribed for as a mark of respect and esteem. The presentation was made by Mr. H. Lucas, the President, who in a few appreciative words referred to Mr. Woolley's public work and his qualities as a private citizen. Mr. Woolley replied in a happy speech reminiscent of the years he had spent in Kobe and the affection he had for the place. Yesterday afternoon, as the launch left the hatoba, the large crowd of foreigners gave three hearty cheers for Mr. and Mrs. Woolley. Whether Mr. Woolley will return to Japan is not, we believe, wholly assured, but we are quite certain that his return will be hoped for by a large circle of friends, and we may express the belief that if the choice lies with him he will decide for Japan. There he has made his home and rendered such excellent public service.

REPAIRING HOUSES.

CLAIM FOR ALLEGED WORK DONE AND MONEY DEPOSITED.

Li Sing, a trader, residing at 121, Des Vœux Road Central, brought an action in the Supreme Court, last Monday, against Mahomed Ally and Mr. A. V. Apcar, executors of the will of Hajee Mahomed Sadick Hajee Esmail, (deceased) to recover the sum of $1,800, which was alleged to have been deposited as security under an indenture of a lease dated 24th May, 1902, and made between H. M. S. H. Esmail of the one part and Li Sing (plaintiff) on the other part. The plaintiff also claimed further the sum of $309.10, amount paid by the plaintiff at the request of the defendants for the execution of repairs to the property in question. Altogether the plaintiff claimed $2,109.10.

The Chief Justice (Sir Francis Piggott) presided, Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. Otto Kong Sing, appeared for the plaintiff, Dr. Ho Kai, with whom was Mr. D. V. Stevenson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) represented the defence.

In the statement of claim the plaintiff was mentioned as a trader carrying in business at 121, Des Vœux Road Central. The defendants were the executors of the last will and Testament of the late Hajee Mahomed Sadick Hajee Esmail, who died on February, 1905, and they reside at 45, Wyndham Street. By an indenture made on the 24th May, 1902, between Hajee Esmail of the one part and the plaintiff of the other part, certain houses were leased to the plaintiff for the term of five years, commencing from the 1st January, 1902. Part of the consideration for the lease was the deposit of a sum of $1,800, which was made by the plaintiff with Hajee Esmail as security for the payment of the rent and the performance of the covenants reserved by and contained in the lease. It was by this lease, expressly agreed, that the sum of $1,800 should be held by Hajee Esmail as security only for the payment of the rent and performance of the coverants reserved by and contained in the lease, and that the sum of $1,800 should be returned to the plaintiff if he should pay such rent and perform such covenants. The lease expired on the 1st January, 1907. The plaintiff was alleged to have paid all the rent and had performed all the covenants on his part to be paid and performed, but the defenants refused to return to the plaintiff the sum of $1,800 so deposited. The defenants were also indebted to the plaintiff in the sum of $309.10, money paid for the defendants by the plaintiffs at their request. The plaintiff, therefore, claimed to be paid the sum of $2,109.10 with interest.

It was maintained by the defence that by the lease the plaintiff covenanted to keep the interior of the leased premises in good condition and repairs and to deliver up the premises in such good condition and repair, and to repair and make good all defects and wants of repair within one month of receiving notice of such defects and wants of repair from the lessor. On 30th November, 1906 the lessor gave the plaintiff notice in writing of certain defects and wants of repair in the premises, but plaintiff neglected to make good the defects or do the repairs, except in a few and unimportant particulars."

The premises were not delivered up in a good condition, and the expenditure required to put the premises in good order amounted to $335.70. By reason of the neglect and refusal of the plaintiff to put the premises into repair the defendants have been compelled to employ an architect to report and direct the repairs at a cost of $100. The defendants not admit that the cost to plaintiff of making and repairing the skylights amounted to $309.10, and they alleged that the plaintiff had no authority to expend more than a reasonable sum on the repairs. The defendants paid into Court $1,672.40 calculated as follows, viz., by subtracting the difference between $309.10 claimed by the plaintiff and $436.70, but denied any further liabilities.

Expert evidence followed, showing that what work was required was done by the plaintiff to keep the house in proper repair, and what work was not considered necessary by the architects was not done.

His Lordship gave judgment for the plaintiff for $1,909.10 and costs.

THE COTTON YARN PRIZE SCHEME.

A DOUBTFUL INCENTIVE TO TRADE.

The term of the issue of prize tickets for the sale of cotton yarn in China expires at the end of next month. As will be remembered, this arrangement aroused much criticism in Shanghai, and the Japanese Department of Agriculture and Commerce and the Foreign Office viewed the scheme with disapproval. It appears that the result of the scheme was not very satisfactory, as it brought about no increase in the export of yarn worthy of note. The *Asahi* now remarks, however, that it seems to be producing some effect. Purchasers of Japanese yarn in the interior of China who have obtained the first prize of yarn valued at $10,000 have noised their good fortune abroad and have aroused the interest of Chinese buyers generally. As a result the opposition of the foreign merchants in Shanghai has been once more aroused, and recently the foreign Municipal Council of Shanghai requested Mr. Eitaki, Japanese Consul, to take measures to suppress the practice on the ground that lotteries were prohibited in Shanghai. The Japanese Consul declined the request, saying that in his opinion the action of the Japanese cotton spinners did not constitute a lottery, but was merely the granting of a present of yarn to buyers. Not a few spinning companies in Japan are opposed to the continuation of the practice when it ceases at the end of next month, but it is said that whatever the views of the central organisation, the Kanegafuchi and Fukushima Spinning Companies, which are greatly interested in the export of yarn, have decided to continue the arrangement so far as they are concerned. The Kanegafuchi Company has issued circulars inviting support to the continuance of the system.—*Japan Chronicle.*

MR. Von Wiser, Consul-General for Austria-Hungary in Hongkong, has received a telegram from the Foreign Office in Vienna, in which the Consul is commanded to convey the thanks of the Austrian Emperor to His Excellency the Governor for Sir Frederick Lugard's kind congratulations on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of his reign.

RETURNS of the average amount of bank-notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong, during the month ended 30th November, 1908, as certified by the managers of the respective Banks:—

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China,	$3,632,097	$2,700,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation,	15,915,787	10,000,000
National Bank of China, Limited,	79,134	nil.
Total,	$19,626,518	13,700,000

ACCIDENT IN THE NEW TERRITORY.

POLICE MAGISTRATE SHOT THROUGH THE HAND.

An accident befell Mr. E. R. Hallifax, the New Territory Police Magistrate, last Sunday afternoon. The distressing news was communicated to headquarters later in the day, asking for medical assistance.

Full particulars of the accident have not been received, but it is believed that Mr. Hallifax was out shooting near Taipo when he was shot. It was suggested that, after a few hours' tramping, Mr. Hallifax stood up on the road to rest. His gun he held at his side. By some means to be explained, the gun went off, some of the shots piercing the gentleman's hand, which, it is to be presumed, must have been on the barrel. Returning quickly to his quarters medical assistance was summoned, and Mr. Hallifax's wounds temporarily attended to. The doctor's report has not been made known.

THE SHANGHAI WALKING MATCH.

THE FINISH.

The *N. C. D. News* of 30th ult. says:—A very large crowd—probably a record one for this event—assembled at the Race Course to witness the finish. The rails were lined two or three deep on both sides of the last furlong, the Grand Stand and the Public Stand were filled with spectators, and so great was the enthusiasm that people flocked to the roof of the Grand Stand, or stood on the step of the Judge's box, or climbed to other vantage points in the enclosure. The progress of the race could be traced by the boards near the judge's box, where the order at different points on the route had been chalked up. Now and again persons arriving from outside brought later tidings and the spectators were on the tiptoe of expectancy when loud cheers from the direction of Mohawk Road announced the approach of the leader. It was just 10.50 by the Grand Stand clock when Featherstonhaugh and Webb stepped on to the grass of the Race Course. Walking side by side in a leisurely manner, they passed between the ranks of cheering spectators and finished a "dead heat." They had been together from the start, led for more than half way and only lost their colleague T. S. D. Wade after passing Bubbling Well for the second time. A little over three minutes later another cheer and a loud megaphone message from one of the traffic committee heralded the approach of W. A. Brun, the leader of the French team. He walked in fine style, with plenty of energy to spare, and was loudly applauded. It was not until the second round that he had come forward and the second time past Bubbling Well he was sixth. The first Irishman, P. J. Dunne, walked in about half-a-minute later, and he was followed in 21 seconds by another Frenchman, J. Gilis. The French and English teams had now two men in each and it seemed probable that the competition rested between them, when a change came over the entire scene by the arrival, one after the other, in just over three minutes, of all four Germans. Mr. Zimmer, the last of the German team received a tremendous ovation from the spectators, and especially from his own countrymen. All the members of this team looked fit and well as they came in. The race was by no means decided yet, for the English team could still win if their two remaining men came in before the fifteenth place. There was great excitement therefore when Messrs. C. Collaco (Portuguese), Con. Hamilton (Irish) and G. Burnie (Scotch) were followed on to the grass by T. S. D. Wade, who was fatigued, but walked pluckily, and 22 seconds later by Cornish, the last of the English team. It was soon seen that the latter could not overtake Alexandre, the third Frenchman, who beat him by ten seconds exactly, thus placing the last Englishman fifteenth. Donne, the last member of the French team, came in seventeenth, twenty seconds after A. R. Moores, the first of the individual competitors. The Scotch team completed the course with MacKenna, who came in twenty-third; Davies (26th) brought up the rear of the Irish, and Dinez (29th), who covered the course in 3 hrs. 21 m. 31⅘ secs. was the last of the Portuguese. It was not until 11.33 that the first Chinese competitor, C. F. Wang, was led into the final stretch by Mr. W. L. Gerrard. He received as loud applause as the first competitors home.

When the time limit had expired, the prizes—with the exception of those for the oldest and youngest competitors—were presented by Mrs. C. W. Bruce. Many spectators were in doubt as to the winning team, inasmuch as the English and German teams tied on points if the first two men, who had dead-heated for first place, were both counted as winners, as is done in horse racing. The Committee, however, credited Messrs. Featherstonhaugh and Webb with 1½ points each, thus giving the victory to the Germans by the narrow margin of one point. The competitors were loudly applauded as they came up to receive their prizes and before the spectators dispersed three hearty cheers were given for Mrs. Bruce.

The competition resulted as follows:—

1	German Team	5+ 7+ 8+ 9	=30
2	English "	1½+1½+13+15	=31
3	French "	3+ 5+14+16	=38
4	Irish "	21+11+ 4+17	=53
5	Scotch "	12+18+19+20	=69
6	Portuguese "	23+22+10+24	=79

The Individual Prizes were won by:—1 and 2, W. S. Featherstonhaugh and N. Webb; 3, W. A. Brun; 4, P. J. Dunne; 5, J. Gilis; 6, F. Martin; 7, H. Lauenstein; 8, R. Bahlmann; 9, K. Zimmer; 10, C. Collaco.

The order and times of the individual competitors were as follows:—

			Time.
*1	W. S. Featherstonhaugh	English	2.48.10 2/5
*1	N. Webb	"	"
3	W. A. Brun	French	2.51.30 3/5
4	P. J. Dunne	Irish	2.52.05 1/5
5	J. Gilis	French	2.52.26
6	F. Martin	German	2.53.57 1/5
7	H. Lauenstein	"	2.54.43 2/5
8	R. Bahlmann	"	2.56.12 2/5
9	K. Zimmer	"	2.56.59 3/5
10	C. Collaco	Portuguese	2.58.0
11	C. Hamilton	Irish	2.58.41 3/5
12	G. Burnie	Scotch	2.59.18 1/5
13	T. S. D. Wade	English	2.59.35 3/5
14	M. Alexandre	French	2.59.47 1/5
15	A. E. Cornish	English	2.59.57 1/5
16	A. R. Moores	Individual	3.00.28 4/5
17	J. Donne	French	3.00.48 4/5
18	J. L. Wade	Individual	—
19	J. Noodt	Individual	3.0 .54
20	C. MacGuire	Irish	3.01.57
21	J. Goodfellow	Scotch	3.02.41 1/5
22	W. W. Kay	Scotch	3.04.05 1/5
23	T. MacKenna	Scotch	3.04.05 2/5
24	A. A. Whyte	Individual	3.05.06 2/5
25	V. Teste	Individual	3.06.15 4/5
26	V. Davies	Irish	3.07.55
27	A. Collaço	Portuguese	3.16.25
28	M. Collaço	"	3.16.35 1/5
29	A. Dinez	"	3.22.31 1/5

*Dead heat

BURGLAR CAPTURED.

SMART ARREST AT YAU-MA-TI.

7th inst.

Policeman Cockle was responsible for a very creditable capture at Yau-ma-ti at an early hour this morning. At about three o'clock the officer was walking on the footpath in Station Street keeping on the alert for any suspicious-looking persons. Arriving at the entrance to house No. 16 he heard a noise on the staircase, and, waiting for a minute or so, saw a coolie, who was carrying a bundle, emerge from the building. Like a flash of lightning the officer seized the coolie, and demanded from where he obtained the bundle. The coolie replied that the bundle contained his personal effects but P.C. Cockle, disbelieving the man's word, accompanied him back into the house. They had no sooner reached the landing of the first floor, when a door was flung open and the cry of "Thief, thief" was raised. With the aid of a lamp the officers saw a hole in the partition, through which the coolie secured the clothing with the aid of a twelve-foot pole, attached to which was a sack needle. The coolie was taken to the Ya-ma-ti Police Station, where he was searched, and it was seen that he was wearing certain clothing which had been reported missing from another house—No. 20, Station Street. Inspector McHardy charged accused on two counts of burglary this morning, and In Ying, for that was his name, was sentenced to six months' hard labour on each count.

AMERICA AND JAPAN.

AN "AGREEMENT" OR AN "UNDERSTANDING"?

JAPANESE PRESS OPINIONS.

Tokio, November 30.

It is stated on reliable authority in Tokio that the "Agreement" between Japan and the United States takes the form of an exchange of memoranda and is general in character. There is no reference to the questions of immigration and naturalization. It is gratifying that the declared policies of America and Japan are now crystallized, while the pleasant memory of the welcome accorded to the American battleships is still fresh. This exchange of memoranda has no connexion with the situation in China caused by the deaths of the Emperor Kuang Hsu and the Empress-Dowager. It is not secret in character, but it was thought advisable to announce it to the world (at this juncture) in view of the attempts being made to alienate the friendship subsisting between America and Japan on the one hand and between China and Japan on the other.

It is stated here that the "Agreement" can be traced to an informal understanding arrived at between Marquis Katsura and Mr. W. H. Taft three years ago and that it owes its existence to Marquis Aoki's initiative in 1907.

Marquis Aoki in the course of an interview attributed the success of the "Agreement" to the present Government, which deemed it necessary in the circumstances of the reaction in American sympathy with Japan that set in after the Russo-Japanese War and of the clamour in some American newspapers for the exclusion of Japanese.

An understanding between the Governments, continued Marquis Aoki, was never wanting, but they thought that it was imperative upon each of them to promote a better understanding.

OPINION IN JAPAN.

Tokio, December 1.

The memoranda of the American and Japanese Governments were exchanged in Washington yesterday and will be published in Tokio to-morrow.

The majority of the Tokio newspapers heartily approve of the "Agreement," which they regard as marking an epoch in America's diplomacy, and illuminating the concluding chapter of Mr. Roosevelt's record as President. As a fresh guarantee of peace, it is urged, it will have important effects in view of the fact that the world's questions are centering in the Pacific. The spreading of *entente* will enable China to carry out in peace her reforms and the promise of a constitution.

A few papers, however, point out that America does not possess any territorial interests in China, and that it is superfluous and undignified for a first class Power to have stated that the "Agreement" has frustrated the ambition of the German Emperor. It was possibly His Majesty's ill-advised utterances that precipitated the announcement of the "Agreement."

COMMENT IN JAPAN.

Tokio, December 2nd.

A communiqué, issued with the Agreement, shows that Japan suggested the agreement, availing herself of the salutary effects of the visit of the American battleships. America willingly consented.

Count Hayashi says that the agreement is not only less important than the agreements of 1907 but that it is superfluous. He is apparently influenced by personal antagonism towards Viscount Aoki.

The *Kokumin Shimbun* remarks that the stress of the agreement lies in the Pacific question. The *Asahi* regrets that the question of immigration is not included in the agreement. —*N. C. D. News.*

SHIPS OFFICER ROBBED.

WATCH CHAIN STOLEN IN QUEEN'S ROAD.

One of the deck officers of the German mail steamer *Furst Bismarck* had a peculiar experience in Queen's Road Central last Sunday night. He was driving eastwards in a ricksha, when a coolie rushed up to the ricksha and made a grab at the officer's watch and chain, which were attached to his waistcoat pocket. The force of the tug snapped the chain and the thief made off with part of the chain in his hand. Policeman Lenaghan saw the coolie's action from under a verandah, and captured him. On being charged with theft in the Police Court, on Monday morning, it was discovered that the accused had once before been deported from the Colony, and was sentenced to six months' hard labour. It is not necessary to mention that at the expiration of his term of imprisonment he will be banished again.

CALENDARS and pocket diaries for 1909 have reached us from the following firms:—Royal Insurance Co., Ld., (Messrs. Melchers & Co., local agents); State Fire Insurance Co. (Messrs. W. G. Humphreys & Co.); Queen Insurance Co., Messrs. E. D. Sassoon & Co., who are also distributing a handy blotting book.

FOURTEEN men were captured in a gambling raid, which was executed last Saturday night at 36, East Street. When the police entered the house some thirty men were seated—some standing—around a table playing *pai kau*. A stampede followed and most of the men escaped. In the Police Court, on Monday, the ringleader of the gang was mulcted in the sum of $50; his "second-in-command" $25; and the remainder $1 apiece for taking part.

THE REGENT.

The following are some of the Regulations that are to be observed by the Regent:—(1) The Regent shall govern on behalf of the Emperor. (2) When addressing the Empress-Dowager (widow of the late Emperor Kuang Hsü) the Regent shall describe himself as Ch'en (Minister). (3) All memorials shall be answered by the Regent. (4) Matters of high importance shall be first referred by the Regent to the Empress-Dowager for approval. (5) The Regent shall have power to decide as to which matter should be submitted to the Empress-Dowager for approval. (6) Only the Regent shall be allowed to ask the Empress-Dowager for instructions. (7) After one hundred days of mourning have been observed, the Regent shall receive the various princes and ministers of the Crown at the Wuying Throne-hall. They shall kneel once and kowtow three times before the Regent. (8) The Regent's Chair shall be placed on the left side of the Throne. In their audience all princes and ministers shall perform ceremonies before the Throne. (9) All princes and ministers shall be allowed to be seated when conferring with the Regent in the pavilions of the Palace. (10) When conferring with the members of the Grand Council the Regent shall be seated in front. (11) After the Emperor has fulfilled the period of his education and been married, the various ministers shall ask the Regent to return the government into his Majesty's hands. (12) After the Emperor has taken up the reins of government, the Regent may not attend the Court. (13) In official correspondence the Regent shall describe himself as *Yü* (I or me). (14) The Regent shall be allowed to travel in a sedan-chair from the Chien-tsing Gate to the Imperial Palace.

FIRE IN MOSQUE JUNCTION.

DISTRICT RESIDENTS AS FIREMEN.

7th inst.

About noon on Sunday a fire broke out in No. 17, Mosque Junction. The origin of the outbreak was, it is reported, due to the playing with a box of matches by little children, one of whom in the parents' absence from the house accidentally ignited with a lighted match a bed mattress. The mattress, which was made of cotton, was soon ablaze, and in less than no time the blankets and bed material were a mass of flame. Smoke issuing from the windows of the building and the screams of the affrighted children attracted the neighbours from the adjoining houses. Word soon went round the district that the house was afire. Owing to the day being a Sunday most of the male residents in the district were in their respective houses, and soon a large crowd assembled at the scene of the outbreak. With the aid of buckets and basins and a copious supply of water, the bedroom, where the fire originated, was soon inundated with a deluge of water by the amateur fire-fighters whose determination to get the fire under was rewarded within a quarter of an hour of their arrival. But for their timely assistance the closely-built block of buildings within which the house is situated might have been involved in a destructive conflagration owing to the difficulty the fire brigade would experience in getting their engines up to the height of Mosque Junction. As it happened, fortunately, yesterday's outbreak accounted for only slight damage. It was officially reported at $70 by fire and water; the furniture and personal belongings within the premises were insured for $1,500 with the Queen Fire Insurance Co., Ld., of which Messrs. E. D. Sassoon and Co., are the local agents.

CHINESE OPIUM-SMOKERS SENTENCED.

HEAVY SENTENCES.

On the 24th ult., in the Kote Chiho Saibansho, before Judge Iwamoto and two Associate Judges, sentence was passed upon two Chinese, of Sakaye-machi, Kobe, charged with opium-smoking.

It appears that in the afternoon of the 2nd instant the two men, Riku Yeikon, aged 38, and Wo Koko, aged 27, were indulging in smoking the drug, as was their wont, in an upper room of a house in Sakaye-machi, 2-chome, which was occupied by a force of policemen who, it seems, had been closely watching the Chinese for some time. The police succeeded in arresting the men in the very act of smoking, and seized the apparatus at the same time.

Riku Yeikon was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, and Wo Koko to four months.—*Japan Chronicle.*

CRICKET.

MOSLEM RECREATION CLUB *versus* LUSITANO RECREATION CLUB.

The above teams met in a friendly match on Sunday last which resulted in a win for the former by 6 runs. Scores:—

	M. R. C.
A. G. Suffiad, b F. Britto	12
S. A. Sepher, b Cordeiro	0
S. E. Ismail, c and b Cordeiro	8
M. B. Suffiad, c and b Lopes	12
H. Harteam, b Lopes	14
Y. Abbass, c Hyndman b Cordeiro	14
A. M. Suffiad, b Lopes	0
A. Abbass, c and b Lopes	7
A. R. Soonderam, b Lopes	0
N. M. R. Bux, not out	2
A. Kader, c Ribeiro, b Cordeiro	1
Byes	4
Total	74

	L. R. C.
F. H. Hyndman, c and b Y. Abbass	4
F. Roza, b M. Suffiad	28
L. G. Cordeiro, c Ismail, b Soonderam	13
A. V. Ribeiro, b M. Suffiad	1
J. C. V. Ribeiro, b M. Suffiad	2
J. Correth, not out	9
F. X. Britto, c and b Suffiad	1
F. Yvanovich, b Abbass	7
C. Lopes, b Abbass	2
C. Rodrigues, c Soonderam b Abbass	0
H. Remedios, b Abbass	0
Byes	1
Total	68

—*Contributed.*

THE *Jiji* learns from Chemulpo that a Chinese vessel conveying many rifles for the rioters of Korea has been seized. The Japanese Consul has approached the Chinese Consul on the subject.

AT the Magistracy, last Monday afternoon, Mr. J. H. Kemp presiding, a meeting of the Justices of the Peace was called to consider an application from one O. E. Owen for a publican's licence to sell by retail intoxicating liquors on the premises No. 30, Elgin Road, Kowloon, under the sign of "The Kowloon Hotel." Owing to the fact that the meeting was held in the first magistrate's chambers (a most unusual proceeding) a report of what actually took place cannot be given, as the reporters were not invited to attend. They were given to understand, however, that the application was granted.

JAPAN'S POLICY TOWARDS CHINA.

INTERVIEW WITH PRINCE ITO.

Cablegrams from London to leading Japanese newspapers have commented upon an elaborate interview with Prince Ito which appeared, a few days ago, in the New York and Paris editions of the *New York Herald*. In this interview Prince Ito discussed, at length and with characteristic frankness, the policy of Japan towards China and also the *New York Herald's* proposal for a *rapprochement* between the United States and China.

The text of the interview, as cabled by the staff correspondent of the *New York Herald* now in Tokyo, was as follows:—

THE SUGGESTED ALLIANCE BETWEEN AMERICA AND CHINA.

Asked for his views concerning the alliance or *rapprochement* proposal, Prince Ito said: "When the *Herald's* proposal of an 'alliance' between the United States and China was first brought to my notice, I smiled. The idea of an alliance in the sense in which the term is usually employed—that of an offensive and defensive pact between two Governments—seemed to me an impossibility, and of course is. I cannot imagine a condition that would lead the Government of the United States to depart from its traditional policy and enter into a political alliance with any other nation, least of all with China.

"But as the details of the proposal have been given wide publicity by the Japanese Press, and it has been made clear that it involves no political entanglement but only more active friendship on the part of America and the American people in China's behalf—a further manifestation of the long-existing friendliness of America towards China as towards other weaker nations, in the interest of peace and fair dealing and China's development—it is manifest that there is not only nothing in the suggestion to which Japan could object, but rather that such an arrangement would contribute to the end of Japan's desires.

JAPAN'S ATTITUDE.

"Japan's attitude towards China is altogether friendly. Our highest interest is permanent peace in the Far East. To that end we hope to see a good Government in China, a Government able to prevent internal disturbance and to intelligently promote the development of that country. There is absolutely no warrant for the idea, which seems to have been entertained in some parts of the world, that Japan desires any of China's territory. Nor does Japan entertain any other sinister designs against China. Our diplomatic differences with China have been unwarrantedly magnified just as many other of our policies have been misrepresented. The suggestion that the military statesmen of Japan are nursing some policy of territorial expansion at the expense of China is merely a figment of somebody's vivid imagination. It requires nothing more than intelligent insight into the various problems facing us in Korea, Formosa, Saghalien, and the Liaotung to understand that Japan is not entertaining dreams of further territorial expansion, either in the direction of China or in any other direction. Since the war with Russia, Japan has been made the victim of a vast deal of misrepresentation, of which this misstatement of our attitude towards China is but one phase. All of this misrepresentation is baseless; the idea that Japan either wants to disrupt China or to prevent her development is the most baseless of all."

JAPAN'S INTEREST IN CHINA'S DEVELOPMENT.

To my suggestion that a good many Japanese seem to think it to their country's best interest that China remain weak and undeveloped, Prince Ito said:

"No thinking man can entertain such an idea. Our friendship for China is not merely altruistic; it has a practical, an intensely practical, basis. First of all, the preservation of peace in the Far East is to our highest interest. To no other nation does peace mean more than to Japan. A disturbance of the peace of China, from whatever cause, would place upon Japan responsibilities which every Japanese mindful of the best interests of his country would escape. At the time of the Boxer outbreak we were told by Europe the interests of humanity demanded that we dispatch at once two divisions of our troops to the scene of trouble. We did our part, but it is no small thing to send an army of that size into a foreign land. When England sent forty thousand soldiers to Egypt at the time of the Arabi Pasha affair and the bombardment of Alexandria, it took something like three hundred ships to carry them. A disturbance in China of similar dimensions as the Boxer affair would mean to Japan the sacrifice of many lives and much treasure, and who would recompense her? The Chinese people may be rich, but the Government of China is poor. If you consider the matter from this practical viewpoint alone, you must see that not only would not Japan provoke trouble with China, but it is to her best interest that no such trouble be provoked from any source. Good government in China is the best possible insurance against such trouble in the future, therefore Japan is honestly desirous of seeing such government and of aiding in its promotion to such an extent as an outside Power may be able. This must be done, however, without our involving ourselves in the internal politics of the Chinese Empire.

"This, however, is but one phase of the practical side of the question, and perhaps the the least important phase. Our interest in China and her development is exactly America's interest, that of securing an open market for our commerce throughout the great empire. That open market, not in one section alone but throughout the empire, is of vital importance to our commercial success. China and America are our two best customers. To a very great extent the whole structure of Japan's commercial life depends upon peace in China. Is there anything to warrant the foolish idea that the men responsible for the direction of Japan's affairs would willingly destroy our commerce with China? I am sure there is not, and I am equally certain the world understands this.

"The importance to Japan of China's development must be equally apparent. There is certainly every reason to believe that as the purchasing power of the Chinese people is increased by the development of her vast resources, Japan will get her full share of the increased business. Japan will in the future purchase an increased amount of raw materials from China, and China in turn will purchase an increased amount of manufactured goods from Japan. If China develops manufactures in certain lines, there will still be many other lines which she must purchase abroad, and our nearness to the China market must necessarily give us a certain advantage over our competitors. The commercial development of nations is mutual; no nation can be wholly independent of other nations in a commercial sense. If an occasional Japanese thinks he sees a commercial menace in China's development, it is because he has no knowledge of the commercial conditions of the world.

"We know that America's interest in China is exactly that of Japan. America stands for fairness and justice, the open door and equal opportunity; and so does Japan. It is to secure these ends, and the peace of the Far East upon which all must depend, that Japan has made her alliance with Great Britain and her entente with other Powers. We know that America and the American people have always been our friends, and that the Government of the United States would enter into no relations with China that could be detrimental to Japan's legitimate interests and aspirations. Knowing this, Japan will heartily welcome increased American interest in China."

Prince Ito further expressed the conviction that the outstanding questions between Japan and China would soon be disposed of; that none of them will give any trouble. Both Governments, he said, are desirous of early settlement; the differences are mainly those natural to the working out of details in accordance with the Treaty negotiated at Peking by Count Komura. There might be delay in the settlement of the Chientao boundary question, as in all boundary questions, but he felt certain this would give rise to no trouble. Japan's interest was solely that of safeguarding the interests of Korea and of the Korean residents in the disputed territory.

THE "YELLOW PERIL."

Returning to the subject of China, Prince Ito again emphasized Japan's friendliness and, especially, that while Japan was ever ready to act with the other Powers in aiding in China's development, it will be without taking a hand in China's internal politics. "If we were to do that, what would the rest of the world say?" was his comment.

I suggested "Yellow Peril."

Prince Ito laughed heartily. "The population of the world," said he, "is in round numbers something like fifteen hundred million people. There are no complete statistics, but the total is approximately that. Of this number, the yellow and brown and black peoples comprise a majority. Were there among these a Napoleon or an Alexander, or a leader possessing the power of both these great military leaders combined, there would still be no possibility of the destruction of one race by another, and in all human probability no attempt in that direction. Such talk as 'Yellow Peril' is too silly to be taken seriously by anybody. If I remember well, not long ago a member of the House of Commons rose and asked whether the time had not come for a war against all Mohammedans. Another member asked: 'What of the many millions of Mohammedans in India who are among the most loyal subjects of the British Empire?' That question immediately stopped the mouth of the first questioner.

"This episode," added Prince Ito, "serves to show how the interests of the different peoples of the world are interwoven regardless of colour or creed. Happily the day has long since passed when a monarch could precipitate a war based on creed or colour. The different people of the world know too much of one another, their interests are too closely intertwined, to permit a crusade of race against race or colour against colour. The talk of Yellow Peril is just as foolish as talk of White Peril. The world is big enough for all the people it contains, and they can live on in peace and happiness without one race encroaching upon another."

THE ORIENTAL COLONISATION COMPANY AND EMIGRATION.

My question concerning the expected working of the Oriental Colonisation Company elicited a highly interesting expression of Prince Ito's views upon Japanese emigration.

"Japan's emigration problem," said he, "is by no means as great as it has been represented. While it is true that statistics show an annual increase in Japan's population of approximately five hundred thousand, there is now no surplus of population such as need give the Government any anxiety, nor will there be in the near future. It is not true that the Government of Japan is sending its people abroad, or that it is faced with any necessity of finding an outlet for an excess of people. Rather is the contrary true. Japan has a great amount of undeveloped agricultural land in the Hokkaido which the Government is anxious to furnish to agricultural labourers at a merely nominal cost; then there are Korea and the Japanese portion of Saghalien to furnish opportunity for that class of labour. It is true of Japan, as of other countries, however, that agricultural labour prefers to stick to the soil with which it is familiar; and so long as the people of the rural sections of the thickly populated portions of Japan can get enough to eat and to live in any sort of comfort, they do not care to emigrate even to other parts of their own country. For this reason I do not anticipate anything like the large emigration to Korea that has been predicted by the promoters of the new Colonisation Company, certainly not for some years to come.

"As for emigrants of other classes, especially the young men who would seek fortunes abroad, it is most natural that these should look towards the United States and Hawaii, for there the bait of high wages to be immediately earned is held out to them. In addition there is the incentive of learning. Recognising the problems which the immigration question presents to the United States Government, the Government of Japan has practically ceased issuing passports to persons desiring to emigrate to those countries. I am quite sure the arrangement is satisfactory to both Governments. The simplest way to put a stop to that kind of immigration, however, would be for the United States and Hawaii to cease offering high wages to Japanese and other immigrants."

I asked Prince Ito whether he thought the clause in the existing Treaty by which each Government reserves to itself the right to regulate labours would cause any diplomatic friction when the time came for negotiation of a new Treaty. He said he thought not.

"It is proper that each and every Government should retain that right," said he. "We recognise the right of the United States to restrict its immigration as it may see fit just as it is the right of any other Government. We understand the difficulties of your immigration question and the part it plays in the politics of your country. There ought, however, to be no discrimination against any people on account of race. I am convinced that the Government of the United States and the Government of Japan are satisfied with the present arrangement, and I see no reason to anticipate any differences in the future."—*Japan Chronicle.*

A COOLIE named Cheung To, residing at St. Francis Street, was charged in the Police Court, last Monday, with being in unlawful possession of an overcoat, which was valued at $8. The overcoat was found out to be the property of Lce.-corporal F. Hodgkins, A. S. C., and was missing on Sunday. The defendant said he purchased it from a man in the street, but could not produce the man. He was fined $10, the alternative being fourteen days' imprisonment.

THE prospectus of the projected electric tramway line between Swatow and Ch'eng-t'ai is out, prefaced by a text from the "Wealth of Nations." The line will be thirty li long, and the Capital invited is $300,000. Passenger traffic would be large, and it may be possible to organise a light goods transport service to bring fish from a river port on the way to Swatow, and to the railway for Chaochowfu. The cost of bridging will be heavy, as two wide branches of the Han must be crossed, and in such fashion as not to interfere with the boat traffic.

THE OPIUM TRADE.

POSITION IN SWATOW.

With reference to the position of the raw opium trade between Hongkong and Swatow arising out of the enforcement within that prefectural district, Waichow, and other outlying prefectures, our latest authoritative information is to the effect that British merchants in the Colony are exercising the virtue of patience in the face of difficulties. Their representations to the British Consul-General at Canton were taken into consideration as soon as received by Mr. H. H. Fox, who has addressed His Excellency the Viceroy communicating to H.E. Chang's notice the legitimate grievance of the Hongkong merchants. The Canton Viceroy undertook to cause investigations to be made at Swatow, and promised to again communicate with the British Consular representative as soon as he is placed in possession of the official report from Swatow.

JAPANESE SHIPPING SUBSIDIES.

RELIEF OF SEAMEN AND SHIPBUILDING OPERATIVES.

In an article urging the necessity of taking immediate measures for the relief of discharged seamen and operatives who have been dismissed from shipbuilding yards, the *Osaka Asahi* opines that it is difficult to predict when activity in the shipping and shipbuilding trades in Japan, which are suffering from extreme depression, will return.

The Shipping List of Japan drawn up by the Communications Department shows the number and tonnage of vessels at the end of July last to be as follows:—

STEAMERS.

Tonnage of Vessels.	Number.	Total Gross Tonnage.
20 to 100 tons	738	33,775
100 „ 300 „	289	48,244
300 „ 500 „	96	37,334
500 „ 1,000 „	138	100,686
1,000 „ 2,000 „	132	202,101
2,000 „ 3,000 „	110	269,683
3,000 „ 4,000 „	50	170,308
4,000 „ 5,000 „	18	80,114
5,000 „ 6,000 „	6	31,861
6,000 „ 7,000 „	20	125,021
7,000 „ 8,000 „	1	7,463
8,000 „ 9,000 „	1	8,523
Above 9,000 „	1	13,454
Total	1,600	1,128,567

SAILING VESSELS.

20 to 100 tons	3,044	184,162
100 „ 300 „	1,294	173,996
300 „ 500 „	4	1,589
500 „ 1,000 „	1	685
Above 1,000 tons	1	2,287
Total	4,344	362,861

From the above figures it can be seen that marine transport of Japan is dealt with by 1,600 steamers, with an aggregate tonnage of 1,128,567, and 4,344 sailing vessels, with a total tonnage of 362,861. It is only natural in the present condition of trade that the supply of bottoms should exceed the demand for the transport of goods, and the extreme depression in shipping business is therefore not a matter for surprise. Now that the close of navigation to North China for the season is rapidly approaching, Japanese steamers of above 1,000 tons engaged in the North China trade are being put on the Japanese coasting trade, and this is making the situation worse. Steamers arriving at Moji, Kobe, and Osaka increase in number day after day. These circumstances have forced shipowners to reduce the size of their crews in order to minimise the financial difficulty. As a consequence the number of officers and seamen out of employment is fast multiplying. As regards officers, the number of unemployed at Moji, Shimonoseki, Kobe, and Osaka is known to exceed 1,000, and the number of deck hands, stokers, &c. out of employment is large in proportion. These unfortunate men, whose business lies on the sea, are hardly able even to earn a subsistence on shore, and thus a large number of honest and innocent persons are reduced to misery, on account of the trade depression.

Our contemporary goes on to say that the position of the shipbuilding business is not less unfortunate. The men dismissed this year from the Mitsu Bishi, Kawasaki, Uraga, Ishikawa-jima, and Hakodate yards, and the Osaka Ironworks number nearly 15,000. The position is rendered still worse from the fact that the repairs at the naval yards of the captured Russian warships have been completed, and the adoption of any new scheme of naval extension is not to be expected for the present, so that the Government yards are as slack as the others. At the present moment, when the shipping trade is going through such serious depression, the construction of new steamers is of course out of the question. The revival of the Chinese Navy is uncertain. So is the prospect of the construction of any more warships for Siam. Thus there is no prospect of immediate revival of activity in the shipbuilding business, and shipbuilding operatives, who form the fundamental elements for the construction or repair of warships in time of emergency, are being fast thrown out of employment. The Government has been spending a considerable amount of money annually for the encouragement of steam navigation and shipbuilding, but the money thus expended merely goes to enrich a small section of capitalists, and seamen and shipbuilding operatives enjoy no benefit. They are dismissed without any consideration on the advent of depression, and are placed on the verge of starvation. This is due to the defects in the existing laws relating to the encouragement of steam navigation and shipbuilding, which are framed on the basis of a simple theory that when subsidies are granted to steamship owners and shipbuilding yards, seamen and shipbuilding operatives will naturally be protected and escape the misfortune of losing employment. Proof is better than argument. The fact that so many officers, seamen, and operatives are out of employment and are reduced to the verge of starvation is eloquent of the defects of the law. It seems that the Government propose to amend the laws in question and is taking steps to introduce a Bill to the Diet at the coming session. While the grant of subsidies to steam navigation and shipbuilding may be necessary, concludes our contemporary, the protection and relief of seamen and shipbuilding operatives is of pressing need and action for relief should be taken at once.—*Japan Chronicle.*

A CHINESE woman, by name Chan Sing Yee, whose mind is alleged to be unhinged, made a fruitless attempt to commit suicide in the harbour at two o'clock last Monday afternoon. Chan Sing Yee is a married woman, thirty-two years of age, residing at 17, Upper Lascar Row. She was seen to be walking along the Praya East on Monday and to jump into the water. The splash caused by the fall aroused several boatmen in the vicinity, who rescued the woman and handed her over to the police. It is not known what led to the woman's act. The police had her removed to hospital for observation.

FIRE AT KOWLOON.

COAL SHEDS ABLAZE.

8th inst.

Fire broke out in the early hours of this morning, at four o'clock, to be exact, at a coolie shed in Kowloon near Blackhead Point. In the course of a minute, the entire shed was ablaze and the huge flames spread to a number of coal sheds owned by Melchers & Co. All the premises without exception were completely gutted. The Fire Brigade, under Chief Inspector Baker, promptly arrived on the scene of the outbreak as soon as the alarm reached them, and soon brought the hose into play and prevented further damage, but not before some time had elapsed. It is believed that the fire was caused through some careless coolie throwing a lighted cigarette in one of the sheds. The extent of the damage is not known.

It should be stated that the powerful tug *David Gillies*, of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, rendered excellent service in extinguishing the fire. Owing to the fact that the tug is fitted with all the latest fire appliances, the difficulty in putting out the outbreak was reduced to a minimum. The vessel worked incessantly for two hours, during which time, she directed huge streams of water on the burning sheds.

A CLEAN SLATE.

CRIMINALS AND THE WEATHER.

9th inst.

Does the weather interfere with the doings of the criminal class in Hongkong? One would not believe so, as it is to be expected that on a dark, damp night, when everything is quiet, and the policeman on the beat is down-at-the-heels, a thief would have plenty of opportunity to carry out his plans to a nicety. But that apparently, is not the case, taking into reckoning the number of arrests made these few days. Last week there was practically no serious crime committed in the Colony, and the number of thefts committed were few and of a trivial nature. But to-day's calendar will take some beating, so far as the number of prisoners taken before the magistrate for punishment. In all there were four cases to be decided, the most serious of which being that against a coolie who was accused of being a suspicious person. This individual was found prowling in a back lane at Kowloon City by Policeman Sheehan in the early hours of this morning with a chisel on his person. The other three cases were: two for hawking *sans* licence and one for obstruction. It will be interesting to know that during the last twenty-four hours there were no arrests made at Tsim-tsa-tsui. Not a single person passed the night in the cells either at East or West Point, and at Shau-ki-wan there was *nil*. Of the four cases already referred to the Central Police Station contributed two, while Hunghom and Yau-ma-ti shared one apiece.

No mention was made of the decrease of crime in the Colony in a conversation which one of our representatives had with an officer this morning. "The weather is too bad," he said. "The thieves will not steal because of the cold and rain."

MARKETS OF THE ORIENT.

PHILIPPINES A NATURAL GATEWAY.

Development of the resources of the Philippine Islands and control of the resultant enlarged commerce by American manufacturers means much more to the United States in the matter of trade than what that commerce, by itself would amount to, writes Mr. Harold Mr. Pitt in the *Manila Times*.

The geographical position of these islands makes them a natural gateway to the markets of the Orient. The United States, with a great commerce established here, would occupy an impregnable position in competition for the trade of those markets. A consumption of the staples in cottons, iron and steel, and foodstuffs that these islands are capable of developing would warrant if not necessitate the carrying of permanent stocks in Manila which could also be made to serve as a source of supply to foreign Oriental countries.

Under present conditions, from five to six months are required from the time of mailing orders to London, Hamburg, or New York before the goods are received. It is obvious that an opportunity to purchase in nearby markets which would effect a wonderful saving by greatly reducing the amount of stock necessary for merchants to carry would be gladly received by them. Manila is but a few days' ocean travel from all of the great ports of eastern Asia and is thus in a position geographically to quickly supply the trade of this section of the world.

The difference between the position that the United States would occupy in the Philippines and that occupied by Great Britain in Hongkong would lie in that Hongkong has no assured market to warrant the carrying of excessive stocks while Manila would have as a basis the commerce incident to the activities of eight million people which, under free trade with the home country, would mean an annual consumption of from two to three hundred million dollars worth of American products within a few years' time.

No effort should be omitted to impress these facts upon the minds of the American business men in order that their active support of free trade legislation may be enlisted.

DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN KOBE RESIDENT.

The death is announced of Mr. J. Alcantara Figueiredo, who passed away at Yokohama yesterday morning (27th Nov.) after a very brief illness. Mr. Figueiredo was in his usual health up to Thursday evening, but was seized with an apoplectic stroke while he was sitting at dinner. Medical aid was quickly called and everything possible was done to save him, but it proved of no avail. Mr. Figueiredo, who was perhaps better known by his Japanese name Nagano (says the *Japan Herald*), was one of the oldest residents in Japan. He was born at Macao in 1850 and first came to Japan in 1868, landing at Nagasaki. His services being acquired by the Japanese Government he later went to Tokio, receiving a post in the Admiralty. While holding this position he saw something of the fighting in the Satsuma Rebellion and also attained a good knowledge of the country. In recent years, he joined the firm of Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Co. and was stationed at Moji. It was there that he took out his naturalisation papers as a Japanese subject and adopted the name of Nagano. It was about this time also, we believe, that he held the post of Chancellor at the Portuguese Consulate at Nagasaki. Mr. Figueiredo was an excellent Japanese scholar and had such command of the language that he was frequently mistaken for a Japanese. His knowledge of Japanese affairs was also extensive and his stories of the early times were always interesting. He leaves three sons and two daughters, for whom great sympathy will be felt in their loss.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

[Specially translated for the *N. C. D. News*.]

December 2.

On the 21st day of the 11th moon His Majesty Emperor Kuang Hsü departed this life, ascending upon the Dragon to be a guest on high. We have reverently received a charge, by the testament of her late Majesty the Empress Grand Dowager, appointing Us to be the son of Emperors Tung Chih and Kuang Hsü and ordaring Us to enter upon the inheritance of the dynastic line as Emperor by succession. In obedience to her late Majesty's charge we set foot upon the Throne on the 9th day of the 11th moon (the 2nd day of December, 1908) and enter upon the inheritance of the great succession. The first year of Hsüan T'ung will begin with next year and as for the Imperial Bounty which should be extended to all on this occasion of rejoicing let the following be noted:—(1) The Nobles of the Kung (Duke) rank and above are to be rewarded. (2) The Nobles of all ranks from Kung Chu to the Kê Kê are to be rewarded. (3) All the Manchu and Chinese officials—civil and military—in the Capital and the provinces are to be promoted one step in rank. (4) The wives of all the officials in the Capital and the provinces are to be promoted one step in rank. (5) The civil Metropolitan officials of the second rank and above are to be allowed to send their sons to the Imperial Academy of Learning to study. (6) The civil metropolitan and provincial officials of the fourth rank and below and the military metropolitan and provincial officials of the third rank and below who have been either degraded or cashiered are to be restored to their former ranks. (7) Licentiates of the grade of *pa kung sheng* or *fu kung-sheng* are to be advanced to the grade of *en kung-sheng* and those of the grade of *yu kung-sheng* are to be raised to the degree of *sui kung-sheng*. (8) The brevet button of the sixth rank is to be given to every Provincial (Chü-jen) Graduate. (9) All prisoners, with the exception of those guilty of crimes of serious magnitude and such as are not embraced within the action of a general pardon in ordinary, are to be pardoned. (10) All criminals whose sentences are similar in degree to those of transportation and banishment and who have properly behaved themselves are to be released. (11) All soldiers who have distinguished themselves are to be rewarded in addition to the ordinary rewards for distinguished service. (12) All men who have encouraged agricultural enterprises are to be rewarded. (13) One month's rations are to be given to every member of the Manchu Military Organization. (14) The sons of those people who are over seventy years of age are to be exempted from the service of the Government; the brevet button of the ninth rank is to be given to those who are over eighty years of age; the brevet button of the eighth rank is to be given to those who are over ninety years of age; the brevet button of the seventh rank is to be given those who are over one hundred years of age; the brevet button of the sixth rank is to be given to those who are one hundred and twenty years of age; and monuments are also to be erected for those who are one hundred years of age and over.

The weight of government upon Us is heavy and We look to Our ministers and servants, high and low, to exert their efforts for the complete fulfilment of their duty and to strive earnestly to strengthen the country. This is Our earnest hope. Be this proclaimed throughout the Empire for the information of all.

THE CHINESE CURRENCY.

H.E. Tsai Tze, the President of the Board of Finance, has shipped one million taels of silver to the Tientsin mint wherewith to coin the new tael currency.

The Board of Finance proposed to call in the issue of bank notes on the 1st day of the 11th moon (the 24th ulto.) Now Duke Tsai Tze has communicated with the Grand Council stating that the new tael coin cannot be minted in time for this conversion and proposing that the dollar currency and note shall be carried forward until the end of this year. Ta Ching dollars only being hereby referred to.

The following draft regulations have been drawn up by the Board of Finance on the matter of the new currency:—

( ) Tael notes shall be issued at the same time as the tael coins.

(2) All dollar currency shall be withdrawn from circulation within three to five years.

(3) The value of the tael shall be determined before subsidiary or copper coins are minted.

(4) All copper coins of legal currency can be minted only by the Government mints.

(5) When the new currency is issued, the foreign Powers will be approached with a view to making arrangements with regard thereto.

(6) The proportionate value of the new and the old coins shall be determined.

(7) To determine whither in a certain number of years gold coins might also be minted, and to attempt to determine a relative valuation thereof with the silver currency. This should be arranged also by treaty with foreign Powers.

(8) To investigate the finances of all the Provinces.—*China Critic.*

SUBSCRIPTION GRIFFINS.

ANOTHER BATCH OF TWENTY-FIVE LANDED.

The steamer *Kwangsang* arrived in the port last Tuesday morning with a further batch of twenty-five subscription griffins consigned to the Hongkong Jockey Club. They were landed and taken charge of by Mr. G. W. Gegg, manager of the Hongkong Horse Repository. The drawings took place on Wednesday afternoon, and are as follows:—

No. 48—Grey—Lieut. Green.
No. 49—Grey—J. Jebsen.
No. 50—Dark Grey—Lieut. Crookenden.
No. 51—Grey—Lieut. Anderson.
No. 52—Dark Grey—P. Christiani.
No. 53—Chestnut—Capt. Barker.
No. 54—Grey—G. Friesland.
No. 55—Bay—H. Humphreys.
No. 56—Bay—Lieut. Webb.
No. 57—Iron Grey—J. A. Jupp.
No. 58—Grey—Lieut. Sill.
No. 59—Iron Grey—H. N. Mody.
No. 60—Grey—F. B. Deacon.
No. 61—Grey—R. E. Toeg.
No. 62—Grey—J. H. Lewis.
No. 63—Bay—Admiral Lambton.
No. 64—Grey—Lieut. Chichester.
No. 65—Bay—Lieut. Scarlett.
No. 66—Grey—W. J. Gresson.
No. 67—Bay—Lieut. Henriques.
No. 68—Grey—Lieut. Davidson.
No. 69—Iron Grey—H. N. Mody.
No. 70—Dark Grey—F. B. Deacon.
No. 71—White—Lieut. Innes.
No. 72—Grey—Dr. G. P. Jordan.

RETURN of visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending the 6th December, 1908:—

	Library.	Museum.
Non-Chinese	245	147
Chinese	131	1,928
Total	376	1,075

THE NEW REIGN.

As far as the outside world is in a position to judge, the reign of Emperor Hsuan Tung, whose enthronement took place the other day, begins under the most favourable auspices. A new order has been established in China, and has gained the recognition of the Powers having interests to safeguard in the Far East. No longer is this Empire called upon to give battle to the many-headed hydra of foreign aggression, which has no sooner been scotched in one direction than an angry and rapacious mouth in another quarter claims immediate attention. By a philosophy of their own creation rather than in consequence of any forceful dictum of the Chinese, foreign Governments have arrived at the decision that the independence and territorial integrity of China have to be regarded as an axiom of the immediate development of the Far East. The very day that witnessed the enthronement of the infant Emperor, for whom we would wish health, long life and happiness, found the signatures being affixed to the latest agreement embodying this significant principle. Thus China can feel free for the first time for many decades from the anxiety of threatened partition or dismemberment. She has also the satisfaction of knowing that her hold on the outlying territories of the vast Empire is stronger than at any other period. Manchuria is once more under Chinese administration, even though it still bears outward and visible signs of a former regime. In Tibet, thanks to the British expedition of 1904 and to the subsequent disinterestedness shown by the British Government, China is in a better position to enforce her wishes upon this remote territory than she has been at any time during the last century. The voluntary exile of the Dalai Lama has been turned to good account, and China will be to blame if she does not cause it to be known throughout Tibet that its spiritual head has conformed in person to the requirements of his country's position as a dependent state by acknowledging his allegiance to Peking. Where Tibet leads, Mongolia follows, and unless the Dalai Lama elects to use his influence to a baneful purpose, that territory too should remain amenable to the control of Peking, until the matter of its administration has been materially simplified by the introduction of one of the most civilizing factors of the present day—the railway line.

Of the more domestic section of Chinese affairs, as they present themselves to the Regent who carries on the government of the country during the minority of the young Emperor, if we have to speak less confidently, it is merely because the foreign observer is in a more unfavourable position to gauge the real trend of events. Court circles in Peking are as much as ever a forbidden city, and we have to rely upon indirect indications to decide whether the party of reform is in the ascendant or whether the powers that be are still halting between two opinions and cannot bring themselves to favour whole-heartedly either the advocates of progress or the forces of reaction. Nevertheless at a critical period in her history China has passed through a notable change in the occupancy of the Dragon Throne without experiencing any of those popular convulsions that might have been anticipated in a country claiming so little cohesion among its component parts. The maintenance of peace at this juncture is a credit to the shrewd common sense of the Chinese. As a people they are not without their aspirations—although to what extent these are consciously shared by the bulk of the nation must remain an open question—but for the time being there is nothing to dispel the belief that "Young China," whether of reasoned purpose or from lack of organization, intends to await quietly clearer indications of Peking's leanings. That it will submit to be thwarted indefinitely of its hopes is not to be expected, and the authorities have only to study contemporary history for instances of the various methods by which a nation attains a cherished object. Timely appreciation in the Capital of the growing force of public opinion even in inarticulate China, will save the country both moral and economic distress. If, as we hope, this fact has already been realized in Peking, then both from within and from without the new reign has started under happy auspices.

In this connexion it is impossible to refrain from comment upon the notable exchange of views which has been effected between the United States and Japan. By those familiar with diplomatic usage it will be conceded that the form in which the understanding between the two Governments has been placed on record in no way detracts from the significance of its purport. An "offensive and defensive alliance," as there has been an inclination in some quarters to term the agreement, has not been concluded; but a very effective guarantee of peace in the Far East has been established. A treaty or a more formal *entente* would require ratification at the hands of Congress, and it may well have seemed to the Washington Government inadvisable to provoke a discussion on international relations at the present moment. On the other hand, even with a duly ratified treaty, effect could not be given to Clause V without reference to the Senate, and it will be sufficient to wait until the occasion arise, to test the temper of the American people on the subject of active co-operation with Japan for somewhat remote advantages in the Far East. But as a potent guarantee of peace the understanding has a special interest for China, who finds herself once more the object of particular attention on the part of foreign Powers. She will, however, take no exception to this aspect, although, if it be not lost on her altogether, it must serve to stimulate her to more intelligent effort to obtain her emancipation from the international tutelage. The reiteration by Japan of her resolve to claim no special privileges on Chinese soil by reason of her geographical proximity or past achievements on China's behalf places a powerful weapon in the hands of Chinese diplomacy, which should now be saved from the mistakes that in the past have frequently caused her to prejudice a good case. A change in Japan's attitude towards China has already manifested itself under the tactful regime inaugurated by Marquis Katsura, and persistent but friendly representations should ultimately solve the many problems that are now exercising the two Governments. The agreement with the United States will tend to confirm the belief that the wisdom of standing well with all Powers is receiving more attention in Japan than formerly; and the moment is opportune for China to urge the necessity of bringing the conduct of individual Japanese, who are ever ranging farther afield, into line with the enlightened policy of the Government.—*N. C. D. News.*

AN application from Leung Tao, asking for permission to erect a cubicle at No. 16, Western Street, was considered at the meeting of the Sanitary Board last Tuesday. Dr. Pearse minuted:—No cubicle was recommended for this floor because at the time of the survey none were needed by the tenants. The tenants now ask for one cubicle because they have been told that they cannot legally use the kitchen as a living room. They have complied with this order. I recommend that they be allowed to erect one cubicle of rail or lattice or of the solid rail type in the shop under the stairs.

SHANGHAI VOLUNTEER COMMANDANT.

RECOGNITION BY PORTUGUESE CO.

The *Shanghai Times* of 3rd inst. says:—In recognition of his services to them since the unit was formed, the Portuguese Co., S. V. C., met last evening and made Colonel Watson, the retiring commandant, the recipient of a handsome present. The function took place in Club Uniao, and besides the Portuguese Co., under the command of Captain Nolasco, a very large number of officers were present. These included Major Brodie Clarke, Major Trueman, Surgeon Major Lalcaca, R. A. M. C., Captains Collier, G. E. Stewart, Pilcher, Grayrigge, Thomas, Dowdall, and A. J. Stewart, Lieuts Fearon, Koch, Jameson Canning, Carlson, Saker, and Braud, Sgt. Major Studd, Q. M. S. Matthews, and Sgt. Major Fry. Mr. David Landale and Mr. A. W. Burkill were also present. The presentation was in the form of a handsome silver afternoon tea service, bearing the following inscription:—"To Lieut.-Col. W. M. Watson, Presented by the Portuguese Co., S. V. C."

Addressing Col. Watson, Capt. Nolasco said that when the Municipal Council announced that they were going to lose their commandant earlier than they expected, they thought it would be the embodiment of sin if they did not in some way thank him for his kindness towards them, and for the valuable assistance he had rendered in helping them to form their company, for its existence was due in great measure, and he might say almost entirely, to his untiring efforts. After the riot of 18th December, 1905, the Portuguese residents of Shanghai, who ranked numerically third in this cosmopolitan settlement, recognised the necessity for having a volunteer company of their own to co-operate with the existing units of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps in the defence of the Settlement which they had made their adopted home. For this purpose a committee was formed, and after a general meeting of the would-be volunteers the Municipal Council was approached on the matter. Their reply was that although they welcomed their initiative they insisted upon one or two conditions and concluded their letter by asking the committee to hold a conference with Colonel Watson. They had followed the suggestions, and all arrangements were satisfactorily settled in, Captain Nolasco thought, two conferences with Col. Watson. The reasons given by Col. Watson for non-acceptance of some of their conditions were put in such a way that he quite convinced them of their *raison d'etre*, that if they had not adopted them they would have shown to the public of Shanghai that they did not intend to play the game when they offered their services. This most difficult part of the organisation of the company having been overcome, its formation became an easy task to the organising committee. All of them knew that the company had been formed under the guidance of Col. Watson, and instructed by the able staff under him and it was ready in twelve drills to take part in the general inspection. Col. Watson's kindness toward them had not stopped there, for he did not entertain the idea so prevalent in Shanghai that, "The Company is all right, leave it alone." Capt. Nolasco could bring forward many more instances of Col. Watson's kindness and good wishes toward them but those he had already mentioned would suffice to show what they owed to him. After apologising for having too inadequately expressed himself owing to his insufficient knowledge of English, Captain Nolasco thanked Col. Watson most heartily for all he had been to them, not only collectively, but also individually, and they begged to offer him a small souvenir as a token of their esteem for him, and they hoped that when he would have an occasion to use it among his friends at home he would remember that he had a company of men in Shanghai who had felt it an honour and were proud to have served under him.

Col. Watson's health was drunk in champagne, and in reply the Commandant remarked that when Capt. Nolasco and the officers of company came on behalf of the members and asked him to meet them there he had very great pleasure in accepting their invitation. He was glad to see there, in addition to the Company, gentlemen who took a great deal of interest in the welfare of the Portuguese Co. As Captain Nolasco had said it was some two years—he believed it was in January, 1906, since a question was mooted of again raising a Portuguese Co. As all of them were probably aware this was not the first time that a Portuguese Co. had existed in Shanghai, but for one reason or another the efforts that were made in the past to get a company together did not meet with the success that they deserved. Consequently he was very glad when at the instance of the Council he met in conference certain members of the Portuguese community with the object of trying to raise a company. Captain Nolasco had detailed to them how the company came into existence. There had been no difficulty in arranging the few conditions outstanding, and he might mention that two meetings were all they had. To the best of his recollection in the letter which the Council wrote to their Committee sanctioning the enrolment of the Company, they concluded with words something like this that the Council were quite sure that the new unit would be a valuable addition to the corps. Well the present state of the Company, its members, and its efficiency proved that the Council's confidence in them had been in no way misplaced. At the present time the Portuguese Co. worthily took its place among the other units of this cosmopolitan corps. The members had kept up a high level, and their work had always been all that could be desired. He (Col. Watson) had always been ready with his advice and, of course his successor would be also, but no company could possibly be efficient solely by the interest of the Commandant. It depended entirely on themselves, on the interest that each individual took in the unit to which he belonged, and the assistance which he gave to the officers and non-commissioned officers. That was the only thing that would keep a company together, and so far as he could see there was no reason to think that the Portuguese Company would not remain in the future in just as efficient a state as it was in at the present moment. After paying a high compliment to Capt. Nolasco on the company's efficiency, he thanked them all very sincerely for their kindness in presenting him with that very handsome gift. As Captain Nolasco said, when he would be using it in the future, pouring out tea for ladies perhaps—(laughter)—they might be sure he would not forget to tell them who it was that gave him it. And though he was leaving Shanghai very shortly he would not lose interest in the place, and when he would hear news of the Portuguese Co. he had no doubt that they would be in the same state of efficiency as they were at present. He thanked them very heartily for their kindness towards him.

The band played the British and Portuguese national anthems and as the gathering dispersed "Auld Lang Syne" was rendered.

THE Chinese Engineering and Mining Company, Ld., announces that the total output of the Company's three mines for the week ending November 21, 1908, amounted to 23,887.57 tons and the sales during the period to 27,595.59 tons.

JAPANESE VOLUNTEER FLEET.

SUBSIDY WITHDRAWN.

The Volunteer Fleet, the organisation of which has been undertaken by the Imperial Marine Society, would seem to be doomed by the withdrawal of the subsidy which, it was promised, should be granted to the Volunteer Fleet steamer *Sakura-maru*, recently built at the Mitsu Bishi yard. From a statement in the *Osaka Asahi* it appears that the withdrawal of the subsidy is due to the disapproval by the Formosan Government of the demand for an appropriation of Y260,000 to the *Sakura-maru* out of the Formosan Treasury, and the disinclination to advance this sum is the result of the decision of the Government to appropriate for the Imperial Treasury half the Customs revenue of Formosa, which is estimated at about Y1,300,000 for next year. The whole Customs revenue of Formosa, we understand, is to be transferred to the Imperial revenue after next year, and is likely to prove a heavy blow to the future development of Formosan resources. In these circumstances, the arrangement to run the *Sakura-maru* on the Formosan service under the management of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha has been abandoned, and the Marine Society, the owner of the steamer, has decided to present the steamer to the Navy. It is believed that the *Umegaka-maru*, a sister ship of the *Sakura-maru*, which is expected to be launched at the Mitsu Bishi Yard before the end of this year, will have a similar fate. At first the *Sakura-maru* was to be placed in charge of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, but the type the steamer represents requiring heavy expenses for navigation, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha declined the offer, and it was then arranged to place her in charge of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, which arrangement, owing to the withdrawal of the promised subsidy by the Formosan Government, has been cancelled, as stated.

As will be remembered, the Marine Society at the conclusion of the Russo-Japanese War decided to organise a Volunteer Fleet, which was to engage in trade in time of peace and act as auxiliary cruisers in wartime. The experience of the war having apparently demonstrated that such steamers were necessary, public subscriptions were collected towards the fund for the construction of the steamers. Sufficient subscriptions having been obtained to build two vessels, the *Sakura-maru* and *Umegaka-maru* were ordered from the Mitsu Bishi yard, and the first-named was recently completed.—*Japan Chronicle.*

WORK FOR CHINA DOCKS.

EXTENSIVE REPAIRS TO U.S. HOSPITAL SHIP.

The hospital ship *Relief*, now anchored at Cavite, which was disabled by the typhoon of November 18, when half way to Guam, may have to be sent to Hongkong or Shanghai for repairs, reports the *Manila Times* of 30th ult. Much credit is due to the skipper, Captain Le-Cain, for the skill with which he handled the ship in bringing her safely back to Manila. She first struck the typhoon on November 16, just after she had entered the straits of San Bernardino and being a poor craft for heavy weather the skipper turned her about in search of a port. The wind abated in the evening, however, so the ship again retraced her course through the straits, but at 6 o'clock in the evening on November 18, when about 350 miles off the coast of Samar she struck the typhoon proper and the upper gate on the starboard side was carried away. This filled up the passageways with water and the ship was like a sieve; the water also caused short circuits.

There were six small fires in different parts of the ship due to broken electric light connections, before the current could be turned off. The general fire call was sounded and great consternation was caused on board. Officers and men were as cool as could be expected and all worked like demons. The American sailors put to go into the stoke holes to relieve the Filipinos who were taken sick early in the trip.

The centre of the typhoon struck the ship about midnight; then there was a lull for a few moments. When it started to blow again the engines broke down. Fires continued to break out at intervals but were extinguished as fast as they started except one in the laboratory which burned itself out before it could be reached.

After the straps on the low pressure and intermediate cylinders became useless the hospital corps men were detailed in the engine room. They tried to repair the engine by taking the piston head off the low pressure cylinder. That proved a failure. Straps were then made out of steel and placed over the broken parts which held them together. In this way the ship was brought back to Manila without further mishap. The heads of departments have examined the ship at Cavite and a board will be appointed to examine the ship and make recommendations.

THE SITUATION IN CHINA.

OFFER BY JAPANESE GOVERNMENT.

A Peking dispatch states that it has now been ascertained beyond doubt that the meeting of soldiers at Anching-fu in Anhui Province is associated with the revolutionary movement, and instructions have been issued by the Government to viceroys of all provinces ordering them to be on stronger guard against evil-disposed persons.

A Mukden dispatch states that on the 24th ultimo, Mr. Okabe, Japanese Minister at Mukden, called on Viceroy Hsu and informed him that the Japanese Government was prepared, should need arise, to do its utmost to assist in the maintenance of order in China in the present crisis. The viceroy returned sincere thanks for the offer of the Japanese Government.

The authorities of the Japanese Navy Department deny as unfounded reports that warships have been dispatched to China in connection with the present events in Peking. It is stated that the warships are now assembled at each of their respective stations.—*Japan Chronicle.*

FAT-BOILING ESTABLISHMENTS.

Two applications were considered by the members of the Sanitary Board at their fortnightly meeting last Tuesday relative to offensive trade licences. One was an application for an offensive trade licence for No. 15, Reclamation Street, Mongkok, and the other was for offensive trade limits for Kowloon. The former application was from Wong Sui Ting praying for permission to grant him a licence of fat-boiler at No. 15, Reclamation Street, Mongkok. In the petition, it was prayed that owing to his house at No. 7, Tak Sing Lane, which he formerly used to carry on the trade of fat-boiling in, being blown down by the last typhoon, the petitioner begged respectfully to request that No. 15, Reclamation Street, Mongkok, might be registered as a fat-boiling establishment and that a licence be granted.

Mr. A. Shelton Hooper minuted:—Two offensive trades should be allowed south of Boundary Street.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber last Thursday. Present:—His Excellency the Governor, Sir Frederick Lugard, K.C.M.G., H.E. Major-General Broadwood, C.B., Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G., (Colonial Secretary), Hon. Mr. W. Rees Davies (Attorney General), Hon. Mr. A. M. Thomson (Colonial Treasurer), Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, C.M.G., (Director of Public Works), Hon. Mr. F. J. Badeley, (Captain Superintendent of Police), Hon. Mr. E. A. Irving (Registrar General), Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, M.B., C.M.G., Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk, C.M.G., Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, Hon. Mr. H. A. W. Slade, and Mr. C. Clementi (Clerk of Councils).

ABSENT.

Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

FINANCE.

The Colonial Secretary laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee (No. 19).

BILLS.

The Attorney-General moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to empower a Magistrate to hold a Small Debt Court in the New Territories and to regulate the proceedings in relation thereto.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

The second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Magistrates Ordinance 1890 and to effect certain other amendments in the Criminal law, was moved by the Attorney-General, and seconded by the Colonial Secretary.

Second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Fire Insurance Companies Ordinance 1908.

Moved by the Attorney-General. Seconded by the Colonial Secretary.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Interpretation Ordinance 1897 and to remove an ambiguity in the construction of the same.

The Attorney-General moved, and the Colonial Secretary seconded. Bill read a third time and passed.

Second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance further to amend The Companies Ordinance 1865, was moved by the Attorney-General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary. Bill read a third time and passed.

Committee on the Bill entitled An Ordinance for Authorising the Construction of a Tramway within the Colony of Hongkong.—This was postponed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council adjourned till Thursday, the 17th inst.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the meeting of Council, the Colonial Secretary presiding. It was agreed to recommend that the following vote be adopted by the Council:—

POST OFFICE.

A sum of eight thousand seven hundred and ten dollars to aid of the vote, Post Office, for the following items:—

Hongkong Post Office, Other Charges.	
Carriage of mails, share of mail subsidy...	$7,665
Compensation for damaged parcels, etc...	30
Incidental expenses	450
Postal Agencies in China.	
Other Charges, Shanghai.	
Rates and taxes	565
Total.....	$8,710

This was all the business.

THE UNITED STATES.

THE PRESIDENT'S NARROW ESCAPE.

Washington, Dec. 4.

President Roosevelt, while driving in his carriage at Washington, had a narrow escape from a collision with a fire engine. The driver of the engine turew his horses in order to avoid the collision.

President Roosevelt will ask Congress for legislation to place the Marine Corps with the Army.—*N. C. D. News.*

VOLUNTEER CORPS ORDERS.

ALL UNITS.

Parade:—At headquarters at 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 15th, and Thursday, the 17th instant, for infantry drill. Sergt Downes, 3rd Middlesex Regt, will attend.

ARTILLERY UNITS.

Nos. 1 and 2 companies parade at headquarters at 5.30 p.m. on Monday, the 14th instant.

Nos. 3 and 4 companies parade at headquarters at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 16th inst., for Company training. Sergts. Moore and Eveleigh, R.G.A., will attend.

TAIKOO DETACHMENT.

Parade:—At Taikoo at 5.30 p.m. on Thursday, the 17th instant, for Company Training. Sergt Moore, R.G.A., will attend.

ENGINEER COMPANY.

Parade.—At West Fort, Kowloon, at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, the 16th instant, for technical instructions.

JOINED.

Mr. A. Hamilton joined the Corps on the 1st December, assigned Corps No. 1,066 and posted to the Infantry Company.

Mr. H. J. Totton joined the Corps on the 2nd December assigned Corps No. 1,067 and posted to No. 3 Company.

Mr. A. C. Leith joined the Corps on the 7th December assigned Corps No. 1,068 and posted to the Infantry Company.

Mr. L. B. Annesley joined the Corps on the 7th December assigned Corps No. 1,069 and posted to the Infantry Company.

RESIGNED.

Sapper J. Rose is permitted to resign with effect from the 3rd instant.

LEAVE.

Gunner H. D. Haggard is granted leave of absence out of the Colony for 10 months with effect from the 17th November.

At an examination of the Royal Sanitary Institute for inspectors of nuisances, held in Hongkong on May 25th and 27th, 1908, 2 candidates presented themselves. The following 2 candidates were certified, as regards their sanitary knowledge, competent to discharge the duties of Inspector of Nuisances under the Public Health Act, 1875:—

1908, May 27, Beach, Frederick Ernest, Hongkong.

1908, May 27, Hudson, Robert, Hongkong.

The Spitting Nuisance.

HEATED DISCUSSION BY MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR. HEWETT STANDS BY HIS GUNS.

Considerable discussion took place between hon. members at the Legislative Council last Thursday when the first reading of the Ordinance further to amend the Magistrates Ordinance, 1890, and to effect certain other amendments in the Criminal Law, came up.

H. E. the Governor in the course of his remarks said that before going into committee on the question, he would like to say a few words with regard to Clause 7. Since his attention was first directed to this subject very many months ago, he at once saw that the matter should at once be proceeded with and he agreed with the hon. member representing the Chamber of Commerce not to adopt a policy of *laisser faire*.

Following is the clause:—

7. Section 3 of the Summary Offences Ordinance 1845 is hereby amended by the addition thereto at the end of the section of the following sub-section:—Spits on the floor of any school-house, theatre, public building, or other place of public entertainment or assembly, or of any common entrance, lobby, hall, passage way, corridor or staircase of any building used or occupied for shops, offices or flats, or in any licensed public vehicle, or in any tram or railway car, or on any wharf or jetty, or on any footway or side walk of a public street.

Mr. Slade said that he proposed to second the second reading of the Bill. He thought the matter an important one and said that it would be far better to postpone the discussion than proceed with it immediately, as it required very careful consideration.

The Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, C.M.G., said that it was his intention to second the second reading of the Bill, but as the hon. member who preceded him rose at the same time, he allowed him to proceed. He protested against the introduction of Clause 7. A person who is in the habit of spitting does it either voluntarily or involuntarily. Sometimes, a man is obliged to do it. He related the story of an old, Chinese philosopher who had a repugnance for the habit of expectorating, but who on being told that he had eaten something not quite in agreement with his delicate sense, he immediately brought it out. Fortunately for him, there was no Ordinance then which made spitting a criminal offence. In Chinese theatres, Dr. Ho Kai said, the people are supplied with tea, fruits, and are even allowed to smoke while the performance is going on, and in such cases, it is a matter of necessity to spit, however dirty the act may be. In schools, it was a matter of discipline not to allow the boys to spit, and whipping is resorted to where stocks would have to be used for grown-up individuals. The habit of spitting is second nature with the Chinese, who have resorted to this form of getting rid of noxious matter in their mouths from time immemorial, inside as well as outside their houses. Were such an Ordinance to become law, it would surely deter Chinese from making their homes in the Colony. They would find that they were breaking the law unintentionally. The European residents who would inculcate the virtue of not spitting would do well to admonish the Chinese not to do so and at the same time to provide them with sputoons. It was said that a similar law was passed in Singapore. But, Dr. Ho Kai argued, Singapore managed to do several things which were non-existent in Hongkong. Singapore had a Municipal Council which Hongkong had not. Singapore also managed to get over the matter of subsidiary coinage. It therefore did not stand to reason that Hongkong should emulate Singapore in this respect. As an example of the inherent weakness of the new Ordinance, Dr. Ho Kai said that when a man sneezed into his handkerchief, he put a certain amount of microbes into it, and therefore he carried infection in his pocket. In the same way, those who did not believe in the handkerchief and used their cont instead, carried infection on their sleeve. He failed to see the object of introducing a legislation if that legislation could not be properly enforced. Were the authorities, he asked, going to empower the Police to arrest every person who was found breaking the rule or were they going to allow them to use a power of discretion with regard to certain persons? If the former was the case, he assured the hon. members that there would not be sufficient accommodation in the gaol compound to hold the number of persons who would be arrested. Dr. Ho Kai, in conclusion, proposed that the second reading of the Bill should be postponed two or three weeks hence.

The Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk, C.M.G., fully concurred with Dr. Ho Kai.

The Hon. Mr. Hewett in rising said that His Excellency had referred to him as the representative of the Chamber of Commerce. In this case, however, he was going to speak not as the representative of the Chamber of Commerce, but as the representative of his own personal views. He urged that the law should be passed without any further delay. The hon. members were in favour of postponing the Bill, but he maintained that there was absolutely no reason why it should be postponed. There had been ample time at the disposal of the members and whether it was six months or six years hence made no difference. Dr. Ho Kai seemed to overlook the fact that the streets of Hongkong were a sort of a public spitoon at present. He thought the proposed Ordinance a very wise step which should be enforced at once. He had no doubt but that the Chinese could be gradually educated to refrain from the dirty habit and that the Government would be perfectly right to take the contemplated step without further delay.

Dr. Ho Kai asked that the Bill be read a second time twelve months hence.

Mr. Wei Yuk seconded.

A vote was taken, when all the unofficials with the exception of Mr. Hewett were in favour of the motion and all the officials against.

The Governor agreed with the suggestion of the Sanitary Board to adopt the method of posting public notices calling upon the Chinese not to spit for a period of six months. If this proved effectual, then, the Governor declared, nothing more need be done.

After much discussion, it was decided to withdraw Clause 7.

An interesting case full of bewildering technicalities came on for hearing before Mr. Justice Gompertz in the Court of Summary Jurisdiction last Tuesday. Mr. O. D. Thomson, a solicitor, sued Mok Iu Tong, *alias* Yee On Tong, a compradore in the employ of Messrs. Reuter Brockelmann & Co., to recover the sum of $950.63 for professional services rendered by the plaintiff on behalf of the defendant some two years ago, being balance due after receiving $1,300, which was the original agreement between the two parties, Mr. E. J. Grist, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, appeared for the plaintiff, while Mr. H. G. O. Bailey, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, represented the defendant. Owing to pressure of space, we are unable to publish the full report of the proceedings. His Lordship reserved his decision.

MARINE COURT.

NO LIGHT.

5th inst.

In the Marine Court, this morning, before the Hon. Commander Basil R. H. Taylor, R.N., Harbour Master, Police-Sergeant Atler charged Cheung Kong Yun, owner of a water-boat, with failing between sunset and sunrise to exhibit a light on board his boat whilst under way in Aberdeen harbour yesterday.

Prosecutor stated that at 7.45 p.m. yesterday, he saw defendant's boat under way in Aberdeen harbour without lights. Witness called him alongside and asked him if he had no light. The latter replied that he had been across to Aplichau and was returning. He again asked if there was any light in the boat and the reply he received was in the negative.

Defendant said that he had a light when he went to Aplichau, but had none when the Police boarded his boat.

He was fined $10, in default of payment, one month's imprisonment.

A CARELESS HABIT.

In the same court, P. C. Connaughton proceeded against Pang Ho, a boat-woman, with failing to keep the "yulo" of her boat out of water and rigged in so as not to project outboard whilst alongside the s.s. *Shansi* yesterday.

When asked the reason of her carelessness, defendant replied that she forgot to rig it in.

A fine of $10 was imposed.

DUMPING COAL.

Lau Fat, a Chinese constable, summoned Chan Kwong, owner of a fishing boat, with throwing coal into the harbour to prevent seizure.

Lau Fat stated that at about 1.30 p.m. yesterday, he was proceeding from Tsimsha-tsui to Hungbom in No. 5 Police launch, when he saw defendant's boat laden with coal. He promptly went alongside her, but as soon as the latter saw him approaching, he threw the coal overboard. Witness picked up two bags of coal with a boat-hook. He found there were signs of coal having been stored in the boat at the time he boarded her.

Defendant naively said that she threw the coal overboard because he thought he could avoid prosecution.

He was fined $1.

7th inst.

PROJECTING "YULOS."

In the Marine Court, this morning, before the Hon. Commander Basil R. H. Taylor, R.N., Harbour Master, Policeman M. O'Connor, charged five boatwomen with failing to keep the "yulo" of their boats out of water and rigged in so as not to project outboard whilst alongside the Police pier on the 5th inst.

It was stated by prosecutor that at 6 p.m. on the day in question, he was on duty in the Southern Fairway, when he saw defendants' boats lying alongside the praya wall between the Canton wharf and Wing Lok Street, the "yulos" of all the defendants being in the water. Witness had warned the defendants previously against the practice. On returning, he found the "yulos" still in the water, and on being approached by witness, the defendants started to pull them in.

The first defendant pleaded that her child was crying at the time and she was not prepared to pull her "yulos" in. Her two *fokis* were pulling in ropes. The others gave similar excuses.

A fine of $10 was imposed in each case.

MOORING DURING PROHIBITED HOURS.

In the same Court, P.C. Lanigan proceeded against Tang Sau, a boatman, and Chan Kam, a boatwoman, with mooring their boats within 10 yards of low-water mark between Chu-shatsui Point and the saw-mills at Mongkok during prohibited hours.

P.C. Lanigan stated that at 10 p.m. on the 6th instant, in Yau-ma-ti Bay, he went alongside the Police pier and found defendants' boats made fast there. Witness asked if they had permission to be there, and they replied they had not. The defendants were asleep when he got to them.

The first defendant said that he was there to discharge cargo, while the second said that she had brought over coolies from Hongkong.

A fine of $5 and $2 respectively was imposed.

MIS-USING A BOAT.

P. C. Lanigan charged Kwok Hi, a boatwoman, with using her fishing boat other than solely for fishing purposes this morning.

Prosecutor stated that at 3 a.m. this morning, he saw five or six coal lighters loaded with coal made fast to the Japanese coal wharf at Yau-ma-ti. As he got near, he saw defendant in her boat between the lighters. He went alongside and found in the boat a dredging net full of coal.

Defendant said she was fishing, not dredging. She was fined $1.

As might have been anticipated the frontispiece of our buoyant contemporary the *Far Eastern Review* is occupied with a picture of President-Elect Taft, taken while he was on his way to the Philippines this year. If we had not seen so many photographs, sketches and caricatures of Taft, we should have said this picture of the right hon. gentleman revealed in his cabin, conning and committing to memory the impromptu speeches he intended to deliver in China and the Philippines, was the best we had yet looked upon, but in the circumstances we desist. The chief editorials are those devoted to the death of the Emperor and Empress-Dowager of China and the Presidential election. With regard to the latter, the *Review* observes, speaking of Taft: "A friend of China, the peacemaker between Japan and America and a student of Oriental affairs generally, it may well be expected his term as President is to be marked by greater American trade expansion and that the zone of American interest in Eastern Asia will be further extended under his encouragement." There is a long quotation from *Chinese Public Opinion* with respect to China and Currency reform, and an article which goes to show that the cholera conditions in the Philippines have been greatly exaggerated. Among the special features of the November number there are an illustrated article on the Grand Hotel at Yokohama, the *Philippine General Hospital*, rubber growing in the F.M.S., harbour improvements in Japanese commercial ports, etc. Two photographic reproductions are noteworthy; one shows the *Kan Chuan*, a steel screw waterboat, which was built by the Kiangnan Dock and Engineering Works, Shanghai, in six weeks to the order of the Chinese Imperial Navy for supplying fresh water to the American Fleet at Amoy. The capacity of the tanks is 250 tons; the speed 9 knots. The keel was laid on 7th July, 1908, the vessel launched six weeks later, and turned over to the Navy on 25th September, 1908—a smart piece of work. The other is H. I. C. M. S. *An Foon*, a steel, single screw despatch boat, built at the same place as the former—a finely-shaped, handy and useful-looking craft with a speed of 12.5 knots. The other features of the *Far Eastern Review* are as interesting as ever and the success it has attained is not to be wondered at in view of the general excellence of its contents and appearance.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

[Specially translated for the *North-China Daily News*.]

3rd December.

We have succeeded to Our great heritage and We must look on high for guidance to the ancestral precepts of the Sacred Ones before Us, and, in devotion to Our Government, and love towards Our people, follow in the footsteps of our ancestors. On the 1st day of 8th moon of this year (the 1st day of August, 1908) a Decree in the name of the late Empress Grand Dowager was issued ordering all the officials in the Capital and the provinces to prepare for the Constitution and to carry out the various schemes of the same within nine years. It is stated in the said Decree that after all the schemes have been carried through within the limited time, the Constitution will be introduced and the date for the opening of a Parliament will also be announced. It behoves Us and Our ministers and servants, high and low, to obey the Commands of her late Majesty and to carry out these schemes by the end of the eighth year of Hsüan T'ung. It is our earnest hope that the officials in the Capital and the provinces will strive in uprightness and loyalty to carry through these schemes, so that the Constitution may be introduced within the desired time. Thus will consolation be administered to the spirits in Heaven of their Majesties now departed.

THE A. D. C.

SATURDAY NIGHT'S PERFORMANCE OF "A COUNTRY GIRL."

7th inst.

The hearty reception which has been accorded the Amateur Dramatic Club's performances of *A Country Girl* in Hongkong was fully testified on Saturday night, when every seat at the Theatre Royal was occupied. The decided *éclat* with which the piece went was further enhanced by the visit of the Interport Cricket team from Canton, and none seemed to enjoy the little hits of our amateur Thespians with regard to the day's match more than the subjects of the allusions themselves. Encores were numerous; in fact, far too many re-appearances were demanded than was consistent with the ability of the performers, but the principals were very obliging to the public clamour for more. Special mention should be made of Miss Ella Rowe, whose graceful and high-class dancing charmed an appreciative audience. The other performers came up to the usual expectations, and withal, Saturday night's performance of *A Country Girl* was a decided success.

JAPAN.

MINING IN MANCHURIA.

Tokio, December 4.

A telegram, received through Consular channels, states that the Chinese Prefect of the district has forcibly suspended the Japanese exploitation of the Chienchihsai mine which the Japanese claim as belonging to the Fushum colliery.

The Japanese have suspended work pending a decision between the Chinese and Japanese officials.

KOREANS ON THE YALU.

A private telegram states that Koreans in a certain district of the Upper Yalu have been ordered to leave the district unless they are prepared to become naturalized as Chinese. The Japanese Consul has lodged a protest.—*N. C. D. News.*

HONGKONG VOLUNTEERS.

FIELD DAY.

The Corps will, on Saturday, December 19th, take part in field operations between a Blue and a Red Force.

Blue Force composed of Infantry Company and Taikoo detachment.

The Infantry Company will assemble at Causeway Bay in sufficient time to proceed by the 1.52 p.m. tram to Quarry Gap road to B & S. Sanatorium. The Taikoo detachment will assemble at B. & S. Sanatorium at 2.45 p.m.

20 rounds blank ammunition per rifle will be issued at Sanatorium.

Red Force consisting of remainder of the Corps will parade at Blake Pier at 1.30 p.m. for conveyance by launch to Stanley.

20 rounds blank ammunition per rifle will be issued at Blake Pier.

Dress:—Khaki and putties, rifle, belt with 2 ten-round pouches, sidearm, water bottle filled and haversack.

Blue Force helmets without badge; Red Force service dress caps.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"DECENCY."—However completely we may agree with the sentiments enunciated by the writer who signs himself as above, we cannot depart from our rule of refusing to publish criticisms of statements published in other journals.

The Ministry of Education has instructed all the Provincial Commissioners of Education that from henceforth any student who wants to go to Europe or America to study, must undergo a literary examination before the eyes of the Educational Commissioner for the province to which the student belongs, before he can apply for a passport. This step has been taken owing to the fact that there has lately been an increasing number of cases of fradulent students applying for passports to the various foreign countries.

The third performance of *A Country Girl* last Friday night at the Theatre Royal by the Amateur Dramatic Club was honoured by the presence of H.E. the Governor. The piece went with a delightful swing and the same high standard of excellence as on the two previous nights. Mr. W. G. Worcestor as "Barry" is still screamingly funny in his somewhat difficult rôle and the other amateurs are sustaining their parts admirably. Those who have not seen *A Country Girl* (and we fancy there are precious few of them) should do so at once.

The allotment of about Y6,000,000 to the Central Treasury from the Customs proceeds in Formosa is not yet definitely settled, though there is no difference as to the allotment itself. The Formosan Governor-General is suggesting that it should be made in the form of a contribution to the mother country, but the Tokio Government insists that it should be received by them through the unification of the Customs. At any rate, this proposal implies a decided growth in Formosa, in view of the fact that the Island Government had to be subsidized at first and could not attain financial independence until 1906.

CANTON DAY BY DAY.

THE "FATSHAN" INCIDENT.

[*From Our Own Correspondent.*]

Canton, 4th December.

Last Friday, a meeting was held by the Canton Self-Government Society in connection with the *Fatshan* incident when a large number of people were present. The four men who signed the petition to the officials reporting the case and who presented themselves as witnesses, also attended the meeting. The statement at the inquiry held at the British Consulate, as taken by the members of the Society, was read before the assembly. Several gentlemen made speeches during the proceedings, the gist of which was that the Chinese people should look to the preservation of their lives and unite together for protection, as China is still weak in dealing with such cases as the present one. Those present listened to the speakers with evident signs of emotion. After some deliberations, the four men referred to above were photographed and the meeting ended.

CHINESE OBSTINACY.

The Self-Government Society has forwarded a joint petition to the Viceroy asking him to send a doctor of the Military College together with the Nimhoi magistrate and the Deputy of Foreign Affairs, to re-examine minutely the body of the deceased. The Viceroy has also been requested to commun.cate with the Portuguese Consul and ask him to be present at the inquest in order to find out whether the man really died of the wounds that he is said to have received as a result of the alleged attack of the ticket-collecting officer.

BLACKMAILERS AGAIN.

Some time ago, the Likin Station at Hou Lik received a blackmailing letter from certain robbers who demanded the payment of $10,000. A Government gunboat has now been detailed to remain permanently in close proximity of the station in case of emergency.

OFFICIAL'S INCOMPETENCY.

As a result of the disturbance created by the students of the Military College at Whampoa through the unsatisfactory supervision of the College director Wei Yu Tsung, the Viceroy has in consequence removed the latter from his post and appointed Wong Sze Lung to fill the vacancy.

PROPOSED HOSPITAL.

Taotai Kung Sum Cham of Yumchow prefecture has forwarded to the Canton Fong Pin Hospital a despatch, in which he informed the committee of his intention to open a hospital in that prefecture and asked for a copy of the regulations of the Canton hospital for perusal with a view to adopt the same for the management of the proposed hospital. Taotai Kung also asked the Canton hospital to recommend an experienced doctor for service.

THE IMPERIAL MOURNING.

On the 2nd instant, the day when His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of China Hsuan Tung was enthroned, most of the people in this city thought that they might be allowed to shave their heads on that day without being interfered with on this auspicious occasion. Nevertheless, the officials have already notified them that mourning should be maintained continually for fully one hundred days on account of the death of the late Emperor Kuang Hsu. A regular scene was enacted on that day in nearly every police station when a number of people with their heads neatly shaved underwent their trial and were made to pay a fine of a few dollars each for failing to continually observe the solemn occasion. The total number of arrests on that day for this offence made by the police of various stations was eighty-nine and the fines collected amounts to over $500. On that day a military student, a Bannerman, was also arrested for a similar offence, and the Tartar-General sentenced him to imprisonment for one year.

5th December.

THE "FATSHAN" INCIDENT.

Having been warned that they should not publish any unfounded and insidious reports relating to the *Fatshan* incident the Canton Vernacular Press Society held a meeting yesterday at which it was decided that in future they will report any and everything that may actually happen and on no account omit it.

PEOPLE'S ANXIETY.

The members of the Self-Government Society, the Press Society and the Red Cross Society called in a body on the Namhoi Magistrate the day before yesterday and urged him to bring about a satisfactory conclusion to the *Fatshan* incident.

THE IMPERIAL MOURNING.

In observing the solemn occasion on account of the death of the Emperor and the Empress-Dowager, all the three theatres here have been closed and they will not be opened until mourning is over. The owners of the theatres have petitioned the officials asking for a modification of the fee that they will have to pay during the period their theatres are closed. The requests have been granted.

FIRE.

At half-past 7 o'clock last evening, a fire broke out in Yin Sze Lane in the Western suburb. The flames shot up high in the air and spread out over a large area destroying thirteen houses in all. The fire continued burning fully two hours. The various fire brigades promptly appeared on the scene to render assistance. Unfortunately, while the fire was at its height, some of the fire fighters had a dispute with the police of No. 7 Station, who were then on duty, with the result that one of the police officers was wounded. Moreover, the fire fighters, after the conflagration was put down, collected outside the police station and created a disturbance, which was afterwards settled, not without some difficulty.

The other day, another fire broke out in the Sai Shing mart at Sai Chiu and burnt down some twenty houses.

7th December.

EXCHANGE OF COURTESIES.

At 9 o'clock this morning His Excellency Viceroy Chang Jen Chun personally proceeded to Shameen and called on the representatives of the different countries at Canton to tender thanks for their condolences on the death of the late Emperor Kuang Hsu and the Empress Dowager, and their congratulations on the occasion of the enthronement of the New Emperor Hsuan Tung.

AN INSURGENT'S FATE.

A Yumchow despatch states that Tong Chi Po, Chief Adviser to the insurgent Chief, Wong Wo Shun, was, a few days ago, arrested by the people and handed to Taotai Kung Sum Cham to be dealt with. It can now be said that the recent rising after the capture of Wong Wo Shun and Tong Chi Po, has been almost completely suppressed, though a few of the bad characters who had fled over to the foreign territories for refuge, may occasionally return and attempt to disturb the public peace.

THE "FATSHAN" INCIDENT.

The Self-Government Society has convened a meeting for to-day in connection with the *Fatshan* case. A silver medal has been presented to each of the four men who brought the incident to the knowledge of the Society and presented themselves as witnesses, as an appreciation of their public spirit.

A similar meeting was held yesterday at Fatshan.

THE MOURNING.

In this city the policemen are on the *qui vive* for suspicious pedestrians, and a few people have been arrested who had their heads shaved. For the last week a number of arrests were made by the police. It is reported that a certain man surnamed Chu, who is said to be rich, was arrested for a similar offence and was fined a few hundred dollars.

AN OFFICIAL'S ERRAND.

Taotai Fung Seung Wing, third son of the late Fung Tse Tsai, has been favoured with an introductory despatch from the Viceroy to proceed to the capital to have an Imperial audience.

AFTERMATH OF THE FLOODS.

Work is now being pushed on with the reconstruction of the embankments in the different riverine districts, which were destroyed by the recent disastrous floods. The Central Relief Committee yesterday held a meeting at which the Taotai for the Development of Native Industries was present. The balance of the funds now in hand will be appropriated towards the work.

SOWING THE WIND.

On Saturday last, a young man of about 22 years of age named Chui Shai Ying was arrested for obtaining money under false pretences. The lad was dressed in foreign style without a queue and spoke English fluently. In the morning of that day, he called on a man surnamed Kong in Honam and begged for pecuniary assistance on the plea that he had lost his luggage on the way to Canton from Hongkong by a night steamer and declared that he was a stranger to Canton. Kong took pity on him and gave him $5. On the same day he called on another man, a friend of Kong, and asked for help, at the same time offering reasons different from those he had already given. At the time, Kong happened to pay a visit to his friend and recognising the youthful impostor, he had him arrested.

8th December.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

The collection of the second call on shares of the Canton-Hankow Railway Company was commenced from the 1st day of the 7th moon and was closed on the last day of the 10th moon. As the collection was not at all satisfactory, it was extended to the 15th day of the 11th moon. The total amount at present collected by the different institutions has reached $2,500,000, but it is still far short of $12,000,000, the amount that represented the second instalment of capital, to that a further extension is now necessary. Yesterday, the board of directors of the Company held a meeting to discuss the matter and it was agreed that the collection should be extended to a further period of fifteen days, that is, to the end of the present moon.

FIRE.

At half-past 10 o'clock yesterday morning, a fire broke out in the Kwangchow Prefect's yamen through the careless use of kerosene oil. A large portion at the rear of the building was burnt down, before the fire was got under control.

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

The staff of the Bureau of Foreign Affairs attached to the Viceroyalty here has now been again increased by the appointment of Taotai Hui Yuk. The Taotai arrived here the other day from the North on the recommendation of H.E. Viceroy Chang. Taotai Hui was formerly 1st class secretary to several Chinese Ministers abroad and is well versed in the English language. H.E. Viceroy Chang recommends Taotai Yim-Ku for special duty and to make Taotai Hui to be Commissioner of Foreign Affairs in Canton.

MAN-EATER KILLED.

On the 4th instant, the people of the Mou Tan village in Sai Chiu killed a tiger, which turned the scale at two hundred and twenty-one pounds. Four men were wounded by the man-eater while they were attempting to kill the brute.

THE IMPERIAL MOURNING.

The High authorities have given orders not only to prohibit their subordinates from shaving their heads but also their beards. Two petty officials were, however, found acting against the orders. They have been removed from their offices by order of the Provincial Treasurer.

All officials in this city will assemble at the Wong Wah Kwan temple to attend the solemn service before the Imperial Tablet on the 10th instant when they will change their white garments and begin to wear black instead. Blue seals will not be used from that day in all official yamens.

9th December.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

With reference to the further extension to the end of this moon as reported yesterday for the closing of the collection of the second call of shares of the Canton-Hankow Railway Company, it is still uncertain whether the shareholders will subscribe their money fully within this limited period, especially as the Chinese New Year is fast approaching, when the money market will no doubt be considerably tight. In consideration of the difficulties surrounding the matter the directors of the Company are now of the opinion to extend the collection to a still further period and have in consequence advertised to call a general meeting to take place on the 1st day of the 12th moon to discuss the question and to unanimously fix a definite day for the closing of the lists. Those shareholders who have already paid their second instalment of capital and the promoters of the Company will be invited to attend the proposed general meeting.

CONTEMPLATED CHANGE OF CAPITAL.

The Canton Viceroy has again received telegraphic instructions from the Imperial Government urging him to consult with the Kwangsi governor on the removal of the Kwangsi provincial capital to Nanning from Kwei-lin at an early date.

A NEW OFFICIAL.

A site was been selected in the city from Hou Yuk Hong to Wai On Lane covering a large area which includes several streets, for the building of a yamen for the proposed appointment of a Commissioner of Foreign Affairs at Canton. The landowners of the selected site have been requested to surrender their title deeds to the authorities and sell their grounds to the Government for the purpose.

TRIAL OF AN IMPOSTOR.

On the 7th instant, the monk who was arrested for creating disturbances in the town of Fatshan underwent his trial at the Namhoi Magistracy. Those ignorant people who had sincere confidence in the monk and prayed for his release were also arraigned before the magistrate to be questioned. They did not disclose how the disturbances originated but persisted in shielding the monk. The magistrate then, tried to remonstrate with them that the monk was endowed with no gifts other than those of all other people. It is interesting to learn that while doing so the magistrate ordered the monk to be tied in the presence of the ignorant people and asked them to observe whether the monk would be able to disappear and escape so as to show his supernatural powers. Needless to remark, the monk naturally did not vanish. The case has not yet been settled.

10th December.

THE DELIMITATION OF MACAO.

It has been reported from time to time that the Chinese have been contemplating the lodgement of protests against the Portuguese at Macao over the boundary line question and the alleged interference by the Portuguese in the territorial waters, especially after the *Tatsu Maru* incident. A Peking despatch states that the Waiwupu will shortly communicate with the Portuguese Minister at Peking and open negotiations on the subject.

THE "FATSHAN" INCIDENT.

At 11 o'clock this morning H.E. Viceroy Chang received the British Consul at Canton. The purport of this interview is probably in connection with the *Fatshan* incident. Though the members of the Self-Government Society have convened several meetings since the unfortunate occurrence to deliberate on matters concerning the situation with a view to incite public feeling, so far no definite steps are said to have been taken. However, the native people in this city are eagerly looking forward to a satisfactory settlement of the incident.

LIKIN COLLECTION.

The collection of Likin dues for the first ten days of this moon as reported by the Likin officials amounted to 47,304.6.9.8 taels.

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

The Bureau of Foreign Affairs at Canton will be removed to the Yamen of the Commissioner of Foreign Affairs, when the latter official is appointed, instead of being attached to the Viceroy's yamen as hitherto.

A NEW CONCERN.

A fire insurance company has been floated here under the leadership of H.E. Cheung Pat Sze with a capital of $500,000, to be raised by subscriptions of $10 a share payable in two instalments. The concern will be styled "The Kwangtung Fire Insurance Company, Limited," and its Head Office will be opened in Kung Yat Moon Street. Subscriptions will be collected from the 22nd day of this moon and will be closed on the 25th day next.

THE FLOODS.

The Viceroy of Fukien province has wired to the Canton Authorities asking for pecuniary help for the relief of the sufferers by the recent floods.

"CATCHING" A WIFE.

HOW IT WAS DONE BY A COAL COOLIE.

The claim brought against the Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., by Yun Wan, a coal coolie, of 19, Cochrane Street, to recover the sum of $1,000, being damages sustained by him, by reason of a collision between the steamer *Loongsang* (defendants being owners) and passenger junk 2565 H on which plaintiff's wife was a passenger and in which she was killed was continued in the Supreme Court, last Wednesday afternoon, before Mr. Justice Gompertz.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing represented the plaintiff, and Mr. John Hastings was for the defence.

In opening the case, Mr. Kong Sing said that he had received notice from Messrs. Hastings and Hastings that the defendant firm was not going to defend the question of negligent navigation on the part of the officers of the *Loongsang*. All that was necessary, therefore, was to prove death and the damages.

The plaintiff, called, said that on the morning in question his wife left in a junk to work coal at Yau-ma-ti. That evening he went down to Wanchai to fetch her, but could not find her. Later he was told by a man that she had been drowned. Next morning and the evening, plaintiff went to the Water Police Station and reported the matter. On the following day, he identified the body of his wife at the mortuary. Plaintiff's wife was about thirty-five years old. They had a three-year-old daughter by marriage.

By Mr. Kong Sing—How much money did your wife earn a day?

Plaintiff—Forty or fifty cents a day.

And what did she do with the money?—Supported her daughter and herself.

Where were you married?—Here.

Mr. Hastings (cross-examining)—How long have you known the deceased?—Not before October, 1905.

Where did your wife live before you married her?—I don't know.

You never saw your wife before the marriage?—No.

Can you tell us what occurred on the day you were married?—Before that a woman came and said I ought to get married and she would act as go-between. I asked her how much it would cost and she said a few tens of dollars—about $50. I gave her the money and it was agreed that she should get the woman. There was no red chair; my future wife came walking. And we went out for a walk and nothing much happened after that.

Was there any document exchanged between you and this woman's parents?—No.

Did you live with this woman up to the time of her death?—Yes.

You said this woman was a widow before you married her?—Yes.

How did you know that?—She said so.

Did you take any means to find out if that was true?—Yes.

From whom did you inquire?—The go-between.

Where is she?—I don't no if she is dead, or have removed.

Would you be surprised to hear that at the time your wife married you she had a husband in the country?—She had not.

Do you know that a man named Li Ping has petitioned the Registrar-General to the effect that this woman was his wife?—I don't know.

Did you say you had a child from your wife?—Yes.

What was the date of her birth?—19th August, 1906.

Had'nt you been married before?—No.

Plaintiff denied that he knew a man named Yan Hing, his wife's brother; he did not go to Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist in company with Yan Hing and asked them to write a letter to defendants asking for $1,000 compensation. He did not identify his wife on the police pier at Kowloon. He went to the mortuary by himself. He was not interested in the name of his wife's first husband. His wife was not frequently out of work. The average sum she earned a month was about $11 or $12. She paid $3 for her room.

Re-examined—Plaintiff knew that according to Chinese custom to engage a *fah kwo* (red chair) for a widow.

Mr. Kong Sing—Is it the custom for a man to see his wife before marriage?—Well (a pause) I didn't see mine.

The case was further adjourned.

THE *Asahi* reports that the warship *Suruga* arrived at Yokosuka from Kure on the 24th to undergo extensive repairs. While staying at Kure after the recent naval review, the *Suruga* sustained some damage, and having sprung a leak, was in danger of sinking. She immediately underwent urgent repairs and was subsequently dispatched for Formosa, but during the trip the repairs proved ineffective. Temporary repairs were effected at Kure, after which the vessel was dispatched to Yokosuka to be overhauled.

AN IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION.

(10th December.)

In the present temper of the Chinese both in Canton and Hongkong the smallest excuse is sufficient to furnish reason for the adoption of what are described as retaliatory measures, although in reality they are merely pretexts for the advancement of a propaganda campaign whose ultimate object it is not difficult to discover. All those who are the real friends and well-wishers of the Chinese cannot but view with disfavour the extraordinary methods which are being employed by the *soi-disant* Self-Government Society of Canton to foment an attitude which is more or less antagonistic to all foreigners located in the vicinity of Canton over the *Fatshan* incident, which it was conclusively proved was due to causes entirely beyond human control. The person accused of being responsible for the death of a Chinaman was tried by an impartial tribunal, which had no interest in the verdict one way or the other, and the Chinese interested were permitted to hear the evidence for themselves and to form an independent judgment at the close of the inquiry. Unlike their usual habit, the Chinese allowed themselves to be influenced by the distorted and disproved versions of the affair which were so sedulously spread abroad either by the accredited representatives of the Self-Government Society or by others who had axes to grind. While it may be difficult to lead the general body of Cantonese astray in the first instance, it is a certainty that once a set delusion has firmly imbedded itself in their minds they will cling to it with the stubbornest tenacity. The existing trouble would not wear such a serious aspect were it not the immediate outcome of a long series of real or fancied grievances which have been agitating a certain section of the Cantonese people for some time past. Buoyed up by a feeling of self-reliance, not altogether unworthy or unreasonable, the Self-Government Society has come to think that its power should be exerted in directions which can only contribute to the discredit of an organisation otherwise admirably fitted to protect the interests of the common people. Unfortunately, the Government of Hongkong has failed to mark the writing on the wall, and instead of seeking to remain on conciliatory terms with the Cantonese as a body it has well nigh alienated the good will and co-operation of some of the worthiest merchants who had found an adopted home in Hongkong, by the exercise of a prerogative which should only be applied when the uttermost resources of the Government have reached the point of exhaustion. Lest we be misunderstood this prerogative is one we should not care to see abrogated, since under certain circumstances and when judiciously exercised it is a most valuable weapon in the hands of the Executive. It would not, however, be difficult to trace to the precipitate action of the local Government in dealing with certain Chinese merchants, much of the bitterness and antagonism which the Cantonese are now overtly fanning against the British, and the foreign element generally, resident on the Shameen. The Government of Hongkong, by the enforcement of measures calculated to estrange Chinese has rendered itself open to some criticism. A little calm consideration and the inestimable virtue of caution would have induced the Government to restrain its forceful hand, especially at this juncture. If the high administrative officials had only consulted with the heads of the leading mercantile firms in Hongkong, it would have obtained abundant advice against the idea of penalising even in thought certain Chinese for the fault of unknown malefactors. It will not do for the Government to say that whatever it authorised to be done was done in the interests of the people, and in the cause of law and order, because we doubt if such claims could be substantiated. Nor is it permissible for the Government to plead that it acted in unwitting ignorance of the possible consequences. The first duty of the Government is to determine what the possible consequences of any definite course of action may be. It will not now be sufficient for the Government to pretend that when all is said and done no harm has befallen the Chinese merchants, who are in many respects the main arteries of our commercial circulating system. The idea has become fixed in the minds of the Chinese community—and we are now speaking of the best and most respected members of the Chinese colony in Hongkong—that certain men had been marked out by the Government; and that possibly any or all of them might be quietly advised to depart when it suited the purpose of the authorities to get rid of them. That is of course a foolish notion. To the man of business who understands the value and importance of Chinese backing in Hongkong it makes *pour rire*. The Government has, we readily admit, done what it deemed most expedient to dissipate the bad impression made in the first instance. But all the time it has gone the wrong way to work. It has threatened and cajoled where it should have reasoned and sought to persuade. It has endeavoured to use as instruments in its favour channels which are always blocked against compulsory methods. It has endeavoured (at least that is the belief current in Chinese circles) to undo in an arbitrary way what was done in a moment of, we shall say, forgetfulness. Who that knows Hongkong imagines that the Chinese importers are not aware of the fact that they and their friends in Canton hold the royal flush if they care to force the play? The representatives of British trade and commerce in the Colony are not blind to the evils of which they are the vicarious victims. Both the Chamber of Commerce and the China Association have appealed to the Government with all the power they can command to relieve what may gradually become an impossible situation. And in each case the Government has responded in the stilted terms befitting an imperial bureaucracy. Why should the merchants of Hongkong have to plead with the Government to rectify its mistakes, and why should the Government continue so firm that it will not see the dead wall which it is running its head against? Why, if the first action of the Government was well-advised are the Editors of the vernacular press in Hongkong being commanded to explain that no further banishment orders will be issued, that we are all members of a happy family, that Chinese fears are groundless? And why if the Chinese Editors have full faith in the Government, and are willing to do as they are told like a pack of children, and hold the belief that their subscribers would accept as gospel anything that might be printed "by order," why do they give the necessary assurances with such catechetical precision? Why, this lack of enthusiastic support on the part of the Chinese who have been interviewed and enjoined by a friendly official, unless they want something more than mere injunctions to compel them to do the official behest? The Government of Hongkong is no more infallible than the rest of the world, and when it has blundered it should seek by the openest, fairest and most obviously frank methods to admit the blunder and so reconcile those who have been transformed from warm adherents of the Government into neutrals if not active sympathisers with any scheme which may aim at the foundations of the Colony's prosperity. We fear that insidious efforts may be made by influential Chinese in Canton to induce native merchants to abandon their business in Hongkong rather than submit to further humiliations, and may be urging, in explicit terms, a general exodus of Chinese from this Colony. The secret societies are putting forth the full strength of their machinery to achieve this result, and patriotic Chinamen in Canton are acting as unconscious agents of the Colony's enemies. All this must be known to the Government of Hongkong, and if it fails to realise the gravity of the position so much the worse for those whose interests are entirely centred in the Colony and who are obliged *nolens volens* to remain here. The commercial outlook is quite bad enough as it is without the Government putting a spoke in the mercantile wheel, but if the Government would only listen to reason and face the facts as they are it is just possible that the deadlock in trade might be remedied. What with a mob of fanatics in Canton inciting their countrymen to reprisals over a trumpery affair which under ordinary circumstances would have passed unheeded, combined with the feeling of alarm and uncertainty which pervades the Chinese in Hongkong and is being daily fostered until it may become a cancerous growth incapable of removal, things in Hongkong are far from satisfactory. The first duty of the Government in Hongkong is to conciliate its old partisans among the local Chinese; the Canton movement may be left aside until further developments are observed, and the Self-Government Society learns the meaning of self-government. But there must be no delay in the conciliatory movement which it would become the Government of Hongkong to initiate in order that local Chinese feeling might be appeased while doubts and fears are forgotten in the *entente*.

RUMOURS IN ADVANCE.

Curious rumours, the origin of which is still obscure, are flitting about in connection with the attitude of the British Government with respect to the opium question in the Far East. The latest report is that in view of certain difficulties which have cropped up, the British Government is not at present inclined to press forward the measure for the complete suppression of the opium trade in the Far Eastern Colonies. Whether that is due to any doubt regarding the ability or desire of the Chinese Government to work hand in hand with India in the suppression of the trade can only be matter of conjecture. But it must always be borne in mind that the British Government only agreed to restrict the cultivation and exportation of the drug if China showed that she was in earnest in endeavouring to achieve a similar result by the best means at her command. It was only a few months ago that the Secretary of State for the Colonies intimated that the opium trade carried on in Singapore and Hongkong was to be wiped out, and before the views of the legislatures in the Crown Colonies had been ascertained on the subject a resolution to that effect had been adopted in accordance with the wishes of the anti-opium protagonists in the United Kingdom. The assumption has been from the start that China was absolutely honest in her intention to adopt repressive measures against the use of opium by her subjects, to prohibit the cultivation of the poppy on new territory and to effect a gradual decrease in the area under cultivation, so that at the end of ten years from the publication of the Imperial Edict opium should be a vanished factor in the sum total of the Empire's revenues and the craving natural to those who had been accustomed to the use of the drug should be eradicated. The Edict was issued in 1906, but so far as the ordinary observer is able to make out, the rumpus raised about office-holders who indulged in opium-smoking when the Edict was issued has practically died out, and the careful individual who is resolved to retain his office and at the same time enjoy his evening pipe has innumerable methods at his hand of outwitting the Government. Such an experienced "China hand" as Mr. A. Gorton Angier, has recorded in his latest work that: "Diligent students of Chinese matters have always found difficulty in arriving at what was the real intention of the China Government and people in regard to opium." And after referring to the fact that "edicts and fulminations against the drug in the past have achieved singularly little," he observes: "China is a nation prone to enunciating magnificent precepts that sadly fall away in practice. The Edicts show us the precepts truly enough though we have yet to seek action in entire accordance therewith. In some districts there is no doubt that the Edict is made to run, but there is much doubt about many other localities. Edicts grow more and more drastic, and one of the most recent ordains that manufacturers of morphia or hypodermic appliances are, when detected, to be banished to 'a pestilential frontier of the Empire,' a suggestion that recalls the boiling oil treatment of a Gilbertian play." Mr. Angier's conclusion is: "If China by act and deed is really suppressing the growth and cultivation of opium, then it is our bounden duty to help her in the matter; measure for measure, or a little ahead, as she does. And until we have the demonstration from China herself the treaties must run effectively." It should not be forgotten that among the first acts of at least some of the Chinese provincial authorities was an attempt to constitute the sale of the drug a Government monopoly. At Nanking the first effort was made but Sir John Jordan was quick to point out that the creation of such a monopoly would be a direct contravention of the British Treaty of Nanking of 1842 and the French Treaty of Tientsin of 1858, and the consequence was that the action of the Provincial Government at Nanking was quashed by the Imperial authorities. In Canton a more astute and strategic move was made and had it not been for the sharpness and ready perception displayed by local merchants of the effect the proclamation would have on the sale of opium, and their representations to the Government and the British Consul-General at Canton, the Hongkong trade which still exists would have been reduced to a minimum. That scheme in so far as it concerned Canton having been nipped in the bud, the wits of those carrying favour with the authorities were set to work in order to discover technicalities which would vitiate the operation of the Edict. They read into the Edict a meaning totally foreign to its general import, viz. that it was intended to apply simply to provincial centres such as Canton and presumably Kwelin, but not to prefectural districts such as Swatow, Waichow and other places which have been declared open to foreign trade. Again the merchants in Hongkong drew the attention of Consul-General Fox to this second attempt to drive a carriage and four through the express terms of the Edict, and the Viceroy has promised to make investigations. The question has not yet been settled and Hongkong merchants are possessing their souls in patience, but these things all go to show how the wind blows. Can it be argued in the face of these undoubted facts that the Chinese as a whole, the officials who regard opium as a "revenue-producer," are really sincere in their desire to suppress the use of the drug? If the Edict can be so twisted and mangled that the drug may be constituted a legalised monopoly of the Government, then all the talk about the withdrawal of the British Government, all the losses sustained by *force majeure*, which India and the Crown Colonies will be called upon to endure, will prove but misplaced generosity. It is scarcely probable, however, that these manœuvres to side-track the opium Edict of 1906 have the cognisance of the Secretary of State, or that they would be held to constitute good ground for delaying the suppression of the opium trade in British Colonies. If there is any sub-stratum of truth at all in the report that the British Government is becoming less actively interested in the somewhat remote question of opium on account of the domestic troubles which are crowding thick and fast on its consideration and demand immediate legislation. Such rumours, however, do not gain currency without some sort of reason, and London correspondents who have the *entrée* to the Lobby are not given, as a rule, to the dissemination of what will afterwards prove to have been obvious canards. We can only await the explanation which must be forthcoming shortly with the patience of hope long-deferred. On the 1st of February, the International Anti-Opium Conference opens its meetings at Shanghai, and it is satisfactory that the British Government will be represented by men who can keep a clear head and form a sane judgment when the problem is being discussed. Sir Cecil Clementi Smith is too experienced a civil servant to be influenced by the ranting platitudes of the average individual who recognises in the poppy an instrument of all the satanic world. For example it is difficult to conceive that either he or Sir Alexander Hosie could conscientiously subscribe to the petition which declares "that the opium traffic (except as used by physicians) should be put under the same international ban as piracy and slavery as a crime against civilisation." The further clause "that no revenue interests of any backward nation should be allowed to check the progress recently made through anti-opium legislation in the United States, Great Britain and China," is a piece of pure impertinence, which has, we should think, not the ghost of a chance of being adopted. One American missionary, however, has hopes of carrying a resolution to that effect, but it only serves to show how far fanaticism will carry a crusader, and to explain why reforms are so often defeated by the very vehemence of their promoters. It may be of interest to learn that the "backward nations" referred to are Portugal, Germany, Russia, Turkey and Persia, at least that is the meaning we extract from a circular issued by one of the reverend gentlemen who will represent the United States at the Conference. It is stated that it was intended at first to confine the Conference to members representing the seven nations having permanent territorial possessions in Eastern Asia *viz.* China, Japan, the United States, Great Britain, Holland, France and Italy, but, we are told, "when the commissioners named for the United States began to look into the subject, and perhaps because other nations intimated they, too, had opium to suppress or to protect, it was seen that five other nations should be invited including Portugal, from whose city of Macao, 'the Monte Carlo of the East,' located near the coast of China, comes the opium imported to Hawaii and our Pacific coast; also Germany and Russia, probably because of their 'spheres of influence' in China; and Turkey and Persia, both of which produce a little opium." We wonder what Germany would think if it discovered itself placed *dans cette galère!* and practically described as one of the "backward nations," and what would the Kaiser say if he learnt that coercive measures might be employed to restrain the greatest military nation in the world from checking the progress of anti-opium legislation? It need only be added that the sheet from which we have quoted pillories Portugal in particular, and that the main object of its publication, so far as we can see, is to persuade people all the world over to devote one cent a day towards the desirable object of giving the reverend writer a high old time in China at other folks' expense. If Great Britain adopts a half-hearted attitude, however, the anti-opium bigots may find that their hopes of direct results are likely to be sadly blighted. Perhaps this conference may do more to disillusionise the British Government regarding the effects of the opium trade in China and the pretensions of the reformers who place an implicit faith in Imperial Edicts, than all the arguments advanced by those who are supposed to have some sort of vague interest in the regularising of the existing conditions.

Telegrams.

"HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" SERVICE.

UNIVERSITIES IN CHINA.

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT BY ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

[*By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."*]

Peking, 4th December.

England and France propose to establish universities at Tientsin and Shanghai.

THE BOXER INDEMNITY.

REMISSION BY THE CONTINENTAL POWERS.

[*By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."*]

Peking, 4th December.

The German, French and Italian Ministers in Peking have informed the Waiwupu that their respective Governments contemplate a remission of the Boxer indemnity in token of their sympathy with China in her present bereavement.

THE DOWAGER-EMPRESS' ESTATE.

HER LATE MAJESTY'S PERSONAL EFFECTS.

[*By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."*]

Peking, 4th December.

The Court garments of her late Majesty the Dowager-Empress will be preserved, but all jewellery and money will be appropriated towards the fund for the reorganisation of the Navy.

Telegrams.

"HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" SERVICE.

THE LATE DOWAGER-EMPRESS.

PROPOSED MEMORIAL TEMPLE.

[*By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."*]

Peking, 6th December.

It is proposed by the Central Government to erect a temple in memory of the late Dowager-Empress.

The site for the temple will be within the Eho Park.

COURT ATTENDANTS.

SOLATIUM BY THE EMPRESS DOWAGER.

[*By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."*]

Peking, 6th December.

The maid attendants of the late Dowager Empress have been discharged from the Palace by order of the Empress Dowager who gave to some a solatium of Tls. 100 each and to others Tls. 200 each.

CHIENTAO DISPUTE.

NEGOTIATIONS DEFERRED.

[*By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."*]

Peking, 6th December.

Mr. Ijuin, the Japanese Minister, has notified the Waiwupu the deferment of the negotiations concerning the Chientao boundary dispute.

CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

ITS EARLY INSTITUTION.

[*By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."*]

Peking, 6th December.

The Prince Regent is determined that after the lapse of a hundred days from the death of the late Emperor Kwang Su, the discussion will be proceeded with of the advisability of shortening the period within which Constitutional Government should be instituted in China.

JUDGE WILFLEY.

PROBABLE TRANSFER FROM SHANGHAI.

[*From Our Own Correspondent.*]

Shanghai, 8th December, 4.20 p.m.

A private telegram received in Shanghai from Washington reports Judge Wilfley's removal elsewhere.

RUSSIA AND CHINA.

RETROCESSION OF MINING CONCESSIONS.

[*By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."*]

Peking, 8th December.

The Russians are said to be so pleased with the administration of the Government in China by the Prince Regent that they propose to retrocede to China certain mining concessions within the Kirin and Amur Provinces in token of their friendly appreciation.

THE LATE EMPEROR.

SELECTION OF SITE FOR A GRAVE.

[*By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."*]

Peking, 8th December.

Prince Pu-lun and President Chang Pik left Peking on the 7th inst. to select a suitable site for a grave for the late Emperor Kwang Su.

KALGAN RAILWAY.

FUNDS FOR THE LINE.

[*By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."*]

Peking, 8th December.

The Ministry of War is prepared to assist the Ministry of Posts and Communications with large sums of money so that the construction of the railway from Kalgan to Fu-lun, in the Eastern Provinces, may be completed at an early date.

THE DALAI LAMA.

DEPARTURE FROM PEKING.

[*By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."*]

Peking, 8th December.

The Dalai Lama has decided to leave for Tibet on the 21st inst.

Telegrams.

"HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" SERVICE.

THE PRINCE REGENT.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMY AND NAVY.

[*By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."*]

Peking, 9th December.

It is proposed by the Grand Council that the Prince Regent should be the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, acting on behalf of the young Emperor.

CHANG CHIH-TUNG.

GUARDIAN TO EMPEROR PU-YI.

[*By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."*]

Peking, 9th December.

The Prince Regent proposes to appoint Chang Chih-tung to be the young Emperor's guardian.

Arrangements will be made for Wu Ting-fang to act as the Emperor's tutor in English.

THE PRINCE REGENT.

OBSERVANCE AT AUDIENCE.

[*By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."*]

Peking, 9th December.

At audience with the Prince Regent, the Grand Councillors will be accorded the privilege of retaining their seats.

Officials of third rank will also be allowed to sit down; those of the fourth rank and under will be allowed to remain standing on one side.

LEGATION GUARDS.

WITHDRAWAL BY JAPANESE.

[*By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."*]

Peking, 10th December.

The Japanese Legation Guards will be gradually reduced this month until January when the withdrawal of the troops will be completed.

THE ROYAL FAMILY.

EDUCATION IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

[*By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."*]

Peking, 10th December.

The Prince Regent, feeling concern for the members of the Royal family who have not attained a certain standard of learning, has decided to send most of them to foreign countries to be educated.

On the completion of their education they will be appointed to various offices.

SHANGHAI LIBEL ACTION.

"N. C. D. NEWS" MULCTED IN DAMAGES.

[*From Our Own Correspondent.*]

Shanghai, 10th December, 6.30 p.m.

Mr. E. T. Bethell, formerly editor, *Korea Daily News*, has been awarded $3,000 damages in the action for alleged libel against the *North China Daily News*.

TYPHOON WARNINGS.

The American Consulate-General received the following telegrams from the Manila Observatory:—

December 5th, 10.30 a.m.
Cyclone or typhoon East of the Visayas moving W.N.W.

December 8th, 11.50 a.m.
Cyclone or typhoon W. of Northern Luzon, more than 200 miles distant; filling up.

UNSALEABLE MILK.

JUDGMENT FOR DEFENDANTS.

This morning, in the Supreme Court, Mr. Justice Gompertz gave his reserved decision in the case in which the Tung Hing Sing firm sued the Fee Cheong *kong* to recover the sum of $110.63, alleged to be due for goods (cases of milk) sold and delivered.

It will be remembered that the defendant firm obtained an order by a broker, for ten cases of milk. In due course the cases were sent to the defendants' premises, where they were duly inspected and taken delivery of. The defendants subsequently intimated that they refused to take fourteen tins and sent them back. They then refused to accept other tins to replace what they had refused, and take the ten cases. It was stated by the managing partner of the defendant firm that when he made the purchase he stipulated that it should be good, clean white milk that should be supplied. When the cases were inspected he found fourteen of the tins dented and leaking. He opened one tin and showed the contents to plaintiff's clerk. The milk was thick and yellow, and unsaleable. He said then: "We certainly cannot take this milk; take it all away." The clerk said he would change the tins, but the defendant said he need not bother as he did not want any of the goods sent back. [illegible] judgment was given for the defendants with costs.

Mr. Kong Sing appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Holborow (from Messrs. Deacon, Lodge and Deacon) was for the defendant.

A YARN DISPUTE.

OVER HALF-A-MILLION DOLLARS INVOLVED.

QUESTION OF COMPRADORE'S LIABILITY.

HIS RELATION BETWEEN PRINCIPAL AND DEALERS.

9th inst.

A very important action having reference to a dispute in the cotton yarn trade and also the responsibility of a compradore was opened in the Supreme Court, this forenoon, the Chief Justice (Sir Francis Piggott) presiding. The action was brought by Messrs. S. J. David and Company against their compradore (Mr. Chan Ut Chiu) to recover the sum of $648,816.67 and interest at the rate of $8 per centum per annum from the date the writ was issued and until payment or judgment. This large claim was alleged to have arisen in connection with dealings in cotton yarn, for which, the plaintiffs alleged, the compradore was liable.

The defendant entered a counter-claim to recover the sum of $55,000, alleged to have been deposited with them. This was denied.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. A. G. Jackson (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the plaintiffs. The defendant was represented by Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., with whom was Mr. J. Scott Harston (of Messrs. Ewens and Harston).

THE CLAIM.

When the case opened Mr. Pollock proceeded to read the statements of both parties, as follows:—

The statement of claim was to the effect that the plaintiffs were merchants carrying on business at Prince's Buildings. The defendant was a compradore residing at 62, Queen's Road Central. The defendant, as part of the consideration for the plaintiffs who employed him, agreed to pay them any deficiency in the price of goods which should be sold or agreed to be sold by plaintiffs to any Chinese person, firm, company or corporation with or without the consent or knowledge of the defendant, and also all loss or profit or commission and all expenses which should be incurred or sustained by them in connection with or in relation to or arising out of any contract should be entered into or effected by the plaintiffs with any Chinese, whether such losses be incurred by reason of the breach of such contract. The plaintiffs had, whilst the defendant was in their employment, incurred deficiency in the price of certain goods and the liability of the defendant amounted to $648,816.67, as was admitted by the defendant in his declaration made in support of his petition dated 27th November, 1903, to be adjudged bankrupt.

STATEMENT OF DEFENCE.

1. The defendant admits paragraphs 1 and 2 of the statement of claim.

2. The defendant denies that in consideration of the plaintiffs employing him as compradore or for any consideration whatever he agreed to pay to the plaintiffs any deficiency of the price of goods or any loss of profit or commission or any losses, damages, costs, charges or expenses incurred or sustained by the plaintiffs as alleged in paragraph 3 of the statement of claim.

3. As to the agreement in paragraph 3 of the statement of claim referred to, which is in writing and dated the 30th January, 1902, and extended by a further agreement in writing dated the 27th April, 1905, and the claim of the plaintiffs in the said paragraph and paragraph 4 of the statement of claim set forth, as defined by the further and better particulars of the claim filed or agreed to be filed, the defendant will object that on the true construction of the agreements, the defendant is not liable to pay the claim or any part thereof.

4. The defendant admits that the plaintiffs, while he was in their employ, incurred or sustained certain losses in connection with the sale of goods to Chinese, but denies that the firm's losses in respect of such matters amount to $648,816.67 or to any sum nearly as large, and says that he as compradore is not liable to pay the said sum or any part thereof and that when he stated in the declaration in paragraph 4 of the statement of claim referred to, that he was indebted in the sum, he mistakenly believed that he was so indebted.

5. If the defendant is liable to pay the said sum or any part thereof which he denies, the defendant is liable only as surety for the Chinese with whom the plaintiffs entered into contracts and the plaintiffs have lost all rights against the defendant by entering into agreements in the early part of August, 1906, and the early part of September, 1906, to give time to the Chinese for taking delivery of the goods the plaintiffs had contracted to sell to the Chinese.

6. At the time the plaintiffs entered into the agreements, the plaintiffs had not got and were unable to deliver a substantial proportion of the goods which they had contracted to deliver and of which the due date for delivery had arrived and by means of the said agreements they obtained time to obtain the said goods from abroad. The defendant is unable to give particulars of the goods which the plaintiffs were unable to deliver on the due date for the delivery thereof, but particulars appear in the books of the defendant kept when he was in the plaintiffs' service.

7. If the defendant is liable to pay the sum or any part thereof, which the defendant denies, the defendant is liable to pay no more than the difference between the price at which the goods were contracted to be sold and the market price at the dates on which delivery of the goods should have been taken and such godown rent, insurance and other charges as were then payable by the purchasers of the goods in the case of goods which the plaintiffs had in hand at the due date for the delivery thereof, and is not liable to pay anything in the case of goods which the plaintiffs had not in hand at the due date for the delivery thereof.

8. The goods imported by the plaintiffs to meet their contracts to sell goods were not allocated to particular contracts. The plaintiffs, prior to the date of the issue of the writ of summons herein and after the failure of purchasers to take delivery of goods sold on the due dates, sold and delivered goods of the description contracted to be sold to purchasers, who had failed to take delivery, and have not brought into account in their claim against the defendant the amounts received by them in respect of such sales. The defendant is unable to give particulars of such sales, but full particulars can be obtained from the books of the plaintiffs.

9. Goods imported by the plaintiffs to meet their contracts to sell goods in respect of which claims are made against the defendant in this action were destroyed or damaged by the typhoon of the 18th September, 1906, and in other storms and casualties and the plaintiffs have received monies in respect of such destroyed and damaged goods and not credited the same to the defendant nor credited him with the difference between the sound value of such damaged goods and the prices at which they were sold or were or are saleable. The defendant is unable to give particulars of the several allegations contained in this paragraph, but full particulars can be obtained from books and documents in the possession of the plaintiffs.

10. The plaintiffs have entered into agreements of compromise with several of the persons who purchased goods from the defendants and failed to take delivery at due date, and in particular with the Fook Hing and Kung Hing firms and have received monies, the amount of which is to the defendant unknown under such agreements. The plaintiffs have not brought the sum received as aforesaid into account in their claim against the defendant.

COUNTER-CLAIM.

1. The defendant repeats the allegations contained in the statement of defence.

2. Under and in pursuance of the Agreement dated the 30th January, 1902, in paragraph 3 of the statement of defence referred to, the defendant deposited with the plaintiff the sum of $55,000 as security for the due performance by the defendant of his obligations under the said Agreement.

3. The defendant has performed all his said obligations under the said Agreement.

REPLY TO DEFENCE AND COUNTER-CLAIM.

1. In reply to paragraph 3 of the statement of defence, the plaintiffs say as follows:—The defendant's Agreements, as compradore with the plaintiffs, and his obligations as such compradore to the plaintiffs are set out and defined in two Agreements, both of them dated the 30th day of January, 1902, and both of them made between the defendant of the one part and the plaintiffs of the other part, and in a further Agreement dated the 27th day of April, 1905, which was also made between the defendant of the one part and the plaintiffs of the other part. Upon the true construction of the said three documents, to which the plaintiffs crave leave to refer, the defendant's obligations to the plaintiffs, as compradore, are to the effect which is stated in the statement of claim and the defendant is liable to pay the plaintiffs' claim in this action.

2. In reply to paragraph 4 of the statement of defence, the plaintiffs say as follows:—The losses in question did amount to the said sum of 1648,816.67 and the defendant is liable as compradore to pay the said losses to the plaintiffs. The plaintiffs deny that the admission of liability to the said amount which was made by the defendant in his Declaration in Bankruptcy was made by the defendant under any mistake or mistaken belief.

3. In reply to paragraph 5 of the statement of defence, the plaintiffs say as follows:—The plaintiffs have not entered into Agreements with any Chinese, with whom the plaintiffs entered into contracts, to give them time for taking delivery of the goods or any of the goods which the plaintiffs had contracted to sell to them. The plaintiffs have not lost any rights against the defendant.

4. In reply to paragraph 6 of the statement of defence, the plaintiffs say that they had got and were able to deliver all the goods which they had contracted to deliver at the respective due dates for delivery thereof. No such Agreements as alleged were entered into by the plaintiffs.

5. In reply to paragraph 7 of the statement of defence, the plaintiffs say as follows:—The plaintiffs voluntarily and without any Agreement being entered into for that purpose and without receiving any consideration, forbore at the request of and to meet the convenience of those Chinese whose contracts were included in the claim in this action and with the knowledge and assent of the defendant to press the said Chinese to take delivery of their goods on the original due dates for the delivery thereof, and the plaintiffs have under circumstances aforesaid rightly calculated their claim against the said Chinese and against the defendant as on the 8th day of January, 1907, the date of the writ of summons herein, on which date the plaintiffs declined to exercise any further forbearance. The plaintiffs had in fact goods in hand at the due date for delivery thereof.

6. In reply to paragraph 8 of the statement of defence, the plaintiffs say as follows:—The goods imported by the plaintiffs were imported to meet and allocated to particular contracts. The plaintiffs have in making up their claims against the defendant credited the defendant with the amounts received by them in respect of the sales of goods under those contracts which are included under such claim.

7. In reply to paragraph 9 of the statement of defence, the plaintiffs say as follows:—The plaintiffs admit that they have received monies and they admit that they have not credited the defendant with the same, nor with the difference between the sound value of the damaged goods and the price at which they were sold or were or are saleable. The plaintiffs, however, deny that the defendant was entitled to be credited with any of such amounts.

8. In reply to paragraph 10 of the statement of defence, the plaintiffs say as follows:—The plaintiffs have not entered into Agreements of compromise with any persons or firms except the Fook Hing and Kwong Hing firms. The accounts of the plaintiffs against the Fook Hing and Kwong Hing firms are not included in the claim of the plaintiff in this action and accordingly the state of the accounts between the plaintiffs and the Fook Hing and Kwong Hing firms is altogether irrelevant to this present action.

9. Save in so far as this reply contains admissions of the truth of the statements in the statement of defence, the plaintiffs join issue upon the statement of defence, except in so far as it contains admissions of the statements in the statement of claim.

As to the Counter-Claim:

10. The plaintiffs crave leave to refer to and repeat the statements which are contained in the statement of claim and in this reply.

11. The sum of $55,000.00 which is referred to in paragraph 2 of the Counter-claim was deposited by the defendant with the plaintiffs and remains in the hands of the plaintiffs as security for the due performance by the defendant of his obligations to the plaintiffs under the three Agreements which are referred to in paragraph 1 hereof.

12. The defendant has not fulfilled his obligations to the plaintiffs under the said Agreements or any of them.

Mr. Pollock proceeded to argue on a certain statement made by the defendant, wherein he stated, that he "mistakenly believed that he was indebted to the plaintiff in a certain sum." Counsel stated that that amounted to an admission and the onus was on the defendant to show that he was mistaken when he made the statement. If not, he asked for judgment.

Sir Henry contended that that was not the cause of action. The cause was compradore's agreements. The statement was made by mistake.

The Chief Justice concurred, and added that an admission made by mistake was no admission.

Mr. Pollock said that the defendant must clear the mistake one way or another, and proceeded to cite authorities to strengthen his point. (Proceeding): The defendant was bound by his admission. He must be held to his admission unless he could show that there was a mistake which ought to entitle him to release.

The Chief Justice did not agree with this.

The point having been settled, Mr. Pollock went on to read the compradore's agreement entered into between the parties.

Shortly before one o'clock the Court adjourned for tiffin.

On resuming, Mr. Shroff was called to the stand to prove certain accounts of yarn delivered and undelivered, and various contracts for bales of yarn.

The Chief Justice (examining the accounts)—What is this: 30,000 bales undelivered?

Witness—These are bales which were not taken delivery of by firms, which went bankrupt.

Sir Henry—He is using the word "bankrupt" freely.

The Chief Justice—Are all these eight men mentioned here, Mr. Shroff, bankrupt?—No. They closed their shops.

Mr. Pollock—What do the three red crosses in the margin mean?—That delivery had been taken between 16th August and 16th November.

Had plaintiffs at all times enough yarn to satisfy all the contracts?—Yes.

Sir Henry (cross-examining)—You know Mr. Obadiah Ellis?—Yes.

He is a member of the firm?—He was.

He was on 16th August, 1906?—Yes; he was manager.

Do you know that he attended a meeting at the office of Messrs. E. D. Sassoon and Company at the request of Messrs. David and Co.?—No.

A meeting of yarn merchants and importers?—No; I don't know.

You know Mr. Raymond?—Yes.

Messrs. David Sassoon are importers of yarn?—Yes.

Sir Henry—Before I go into the matter I think it would be best for the other side to close its case. I propose to deal with the legal point and to ask for non-suit. It is a pure legal argument and if we fail I think the accounts would have to be referred to an accountant.

The Chief Justice—I think that it would be better for you to raise your points first. Then I can shape some sort of reference.

Sir Henry—If we win there is no reference (laughter).

It was finally decided to raise the argument to-morrow morning, and the Court adjourned at 3.45 o'clock.

INTERESTING ADDRESSES.

CHINESE COMPRADORS AND THEIR OBLIGATIONS DISCUSSED.

10th inst.

Adjourned from yesterday, the action brought by Messrs. S. J. David and Company against their compradore (Mr. Chan Ut Chiu) to recover the sum of $648,816.67 and interest at the rate of $8 per centum per annum from the date the writ was issued and until payment or judgment; and the counter-claim to recover the sum of $55,000, alleged to have been security deposited with the firm, were continued before the Chief Justice, in the Supreme Court, this forenoon.

It is unnecessary to remark that an action of such importance has aroused much interest in both European and Chinese mercantile circles in the Colony. Throughout the day's proceedings a number of native merchants followed every argument most carefully. There were also present one or two Chinese shipowners who also appeared deeply interested in the matter.

Shortly after eleven o'clock, the Chief Justice took his seat, and Mr. Pollock said that he had decided to close his case, but reserved the right to call evidence on any point that the other side might raise.

Sir Henry Berkeley said he moved for judgment and non-suit.

The Chief Justice—You can move for judgment, but I don't know whether I can allow it.

Mr. Pollock—Can my friend move for judgment without calling witnesses?

Sir Henry—On the facts of the case I move for judgment. If I am unable to get it, then I ask for an inquiry to be directed similar to the one of Chan Kee and Sassoon's.

Counsel then asked permission to put in certain documents as evidence.

Mr. Pollock—My friend cannot put in anything as evidence without calling evidence.

Sir Henry—These documents are admitted by the other side.

The Chief Justice—You can put in the documents, but you can't interpret them.

Sir Henry—These documents relate to what took place at the meeting of yarn merchants and importers.

The Chief Justice—I don't think there is ground for a non-suit.

Sir Henry—No, no. I am not moving now for a non-suit. What I say is that on the facts already presented I am entitled to judgment.

The Chief Justice—You can do that.

The documents referred to were admitted, after they had been inspected by the Court, "for all they were worth, according to Sir Henry."

SIR HENRY'S ADDRESS.

Sir Henry then proceeded to present his views. He began by saying that the parties in the case were Messrs. S. J. David and Company (plaintiffs) and Chan Ut Chiu (defendant). The action was confined to a claim to recover damages from the defendant to recoup the plaintiffs for losses sustained by them on a contract for the sale of yarn to certain Chinese merchants, for whom the defendant was stated as surety. That was the specific action, and the question now was whether the plaintiffs were entitled to recover this sum, or any sum from the defendant for their losses. As justifying their claim the plaintiffs said in paragraph three in their statement of claim: "The defendant, as part of the consideration for the plaintiffs employing him as such compradore, *agreed to pay* to the plaintiffs any deficiency in the price of goods which (while the defendant should be such compradore) should be sold or agreed to be sold by the plaintiffs to any Chinese person or persons, firm, company, or corporation with or without the consent or knowledge of the defendant, and also all loss, or profit or commission, and all other losses, damages, costs, charges and expenses which should be incurred or sustained by the plaintiffs in connection with or in relation to, or arising out of any contract, agreement, transaction or business which (while the defendant should be such compradore) should be entered into or effected by the plaintiffs with any Chinese person or persons, firm, company, or corporation, with or without the knowledge or consent of the defendant, whether such losses, damages, costs, charges or expenses should be incurred or sustained by reason of the breach of such contract, agreement, transaction or business or otherwise howsoever."

The first observation, Sir Henry went on, was that no such agreement, as given above, existed between the parties. It was an imaginary agreement, he said. If one would get the strongest pair of magnifying glasses obtainable in the Colony and look at the compradore's agreement he would not find one single word of the allegation to be seen in paragraph three of the statement of claim. There was nothing to justify a single word of such an allegation. They had made a mistake by what plaintiffs thought was their remedy. What they really should have done was to have exhausted their proper remedy and foreclosed the compradore's security and then brought an action for alleged breach of contract. From the steps they had taken the defendant was put on the footing of a Chinese contractor, for whom defendant acted only as surety under his mortgage.

The Chief Justice observed that it was the custom to link together a compradore's agreement with his mortgage, and in one case it was held possible.

Sir Henry replied that the facts in the two cases were not the same. Before he came to the point just indicated he wanted to take another point.

The defendant contracted there in two capacities. He entered with the plaintiffs into an agreement as their servant. That appeared in a document dated 30th January, 1902, entitled an agreement in respect to the compradore's security. In that agreement the parties were: Chan Ut Chiu and S. J. David and Company. The defendant also made a mortgage, which appeared to have been executed before the agreement. In this mortgage the parties were: Chan Ut Chiu and Mr. A. J. David. There was not a word, Sir Henry pursued, of S. J. David & Co. They were not a party. The mortgage then was between A. J. David and a servant of S. J. David and Company. There was no transfer of the mortgage from A. J. David to S. J. David and Company on the records, and he submitted that in the absence of any such transfer or assignment that plaintiffs (Messrs. S. J. David and Company) had no *locus standi* in the Supreme Court of Hongkong on any matter arising out of that mortgage. Sir Henry did not say that a partner in a firm could not sue on a mortgage for his firm. What he contended was that he must be a party to the action.

The Chief Justice—Supposing the case was won, would not the money be the firm's?

Sir Henry replied yes. But in this case A. J. David was not a party in the action, which he should have been. The whole thing rested with A. J. David, and nobody but himself could enter and take possession. "The property was personal to David," Sir Henry added.

The Chief Justice—But yet he cannot recover except on behalf of his firm?

Sir Henry—Quite so. I say that he was not made a party in the action, and therefore the plaintiffs must suffer.

The Chief Justice—How many years was——

Mr. Pollock—Since 1902.

The Chief Justice—Can't they amend the writ?

Sir Henry—No.

Mr. Pollock stated that legal estate could only rest with an individual and not with a firm. He explained that the reason why Mr. David was not a party in the action was for conveyancing reasons.

The Chief Justice remarked at the conclusion that that sounded like Chinese *tongs*.

Sir Henry retorted that he did not care what reasons led the plaintiffs to do what they did. The plaintiffs could not sue on a covenant to another man. It may be that if the plaintiffs won the case the firm would benefit, but the proper man to sue was Mr. A. J. David. S. J. David and Company could not sue; and he submitted further that the two documents made between two different parties could not be taken together in this action. In the Chan Kee-Sassoon affair the documents were made by the same persons. Sir Henry then put his two points forwards, thus:—

Firstly, that the plaintiffs could not sue. Therefore the defendant was entitled to judgment in the shape the action was brought, and——

Secondly, that the mortgage having been made to A. J. David, it could not be incorporated into the agreement of S. J. David and Company.

These documents could not be read together. Assuming that they could be there was not assingle word in the agreement which could be construed to hold the defendant liable. It had not been proved by the plaintiffs, and the onus was on them to do so; and to show that what losses they sustained were due to the defendant, and unless they could show that the six lakhs were lost through defendant's acts or omissions they could not recover.

At this stage, the Chief Justice asked that Mr. Shroff be re-called to the stand.

The Chief Justice—You are book-keeper to the firm?—Yes.

How do you do with regard to the compradore's books? Are they translated?—Yes.

Are the compradore's books a *facsimile* to the English book?—Yes.

Are the compradore knows what you are doing?—Yes.

Therefore no items would appear in your books which are not in the compradore's books?—Yes.

Supposing there was any failure on the part of a customer, would you inform the compradore or would he inform you?—The compradore would inform us.

Supposing there were any compromises effected, supposing there were payments in bankruptcy, would you inform the compradore?

Sir Henry—He is only the book-keeper, my Lord.

The Chief Justice—Yes, but he ought to know.

The witness's reply was inaudible.

At one o'clock the Court adjourned for luncheon.

Resuming, Sir Henry said that he did not waive his right to cross-examine Mr. Shroff on the account books and as to stocks of yarn in the godown in order to meet the contracts. Counsel then continued with his address. He said that the defendant had succeeded on the counter-claim and judgment for $55,000 should be entered in his favour. His reasons for advancing that were that contingencies which should have justified their retention had not arisen.

MR. POLLOCK'S REPLY.

At 2.30 Sir Henry concluded his address. Mr. Pollock then opened his reply. He stated that his friend had raised an ingenious argument on plaintiffs' claim—an argument based upon entire misconception in the way the plaintiffs' claim was made. The plaintiffs were asking to be recouped for losses which they had sustained through losses in the purchase of yarn. They stated that the compradore was liable to recoup the plaintiffs for those losses, and it was put in the Court, "in the broadest possible way" that the defendant was regarded as Compradore by the plaintiffs. The ordinary position of any compradore would be that he was responsible to recoup the firm for any losses sustained by the firm through Chinese dealers, and that the compradore had means, which the firm would not, of judging the stability or otherwise of Chinese dealers with whom the firm was doing business; and it was for that purpose he was engaged, and paid a salary and commission for all orders received. He was bound by the firm in respect of all losses incurred through dealing with Chinese customers. That was the position of a compradore—a position which arose out of the first words in the agreement—"I hereby agree to be compradore....."

It was implied, Counsel proceeded, that the compradore engaged that he would make good to the firm any losses which the firm would sustain as the result of contracts entered into between the firm and Chinese dealers.

The Chief Justice—I would never go to the extent of saying that there is an understanding. I say that business could not be done without a compradore.

Mr. Pollock—The debts are guaranteed by the compradore, and it follows that the compradore knows.

Counsel then cited parts of the Chief Justice's judgment in the Chan Kee-Sassoon case, and proceeding said that in that event in every case a compradore when he got into difficulties could say that he "knew nothing," which would involve endless inquiry, and if it were competent for him to raise the point, whether he had any specific knowledge of each transaction would, unquestionably, raise unnecessary inquiry. A sum of $55,000 had been deposited, *inter alia*, as part of the security for the due payment to the firm from the compradore and his staff. Here was an express reference to monies, which became payable, *inter alia*, not only to the firm, but to any individual member of the firm, which included Mr. A. J. David, as a partner in the firm of S. J. David and Company. In the agreement there was reference to the mortgage, and Mr. Pollock submitted that that reference had this effect—that what was stated in the mortgage became evidence of obligation which the defendant had taken upon himself as compradore—in other words it prevented the defendant from saying that he was not responsible in regard to matters which were not set out in the mortgage.

Here Mr. Pollock cited authorities at length and read certain important clauses in the agreement and the mortgage.

Continuing, Counsel said that the matter was brought home to the compradore, and his friend could not cut the matter adrift from the agreement and the mortgage. Supposing, he stated, giving an instance, that the speaker was employed in a position of trust and had to deposit $100,000 as security and he embezzled $300,000, because he put up $100,000, he may be liable for $200,000.

Sir Henry—That's not the point; it does not apply.

Mr. Pollock—Supposing there was no security. Does that mean that the compradore is under no liability? The argument must go to that extent.

The Chief Justice—If there is no security there can be no liability.

Mr. Pollock did not agree.

The Chief Justice asked several questions to this effect. Supposing that it is contracted for at $100 a bale and at contract time there is a crash and the bale is worth $50, would the compradore be liable?

Mr. Pollock replied that delivery was always taken on the contract price. He then went on to deal with the question of damages resulting from the difference between the contract price (high) and the market price (low) at the time delivery was taken.

The case was again adjourned until to-morrow forenoon, when Mr. Pollock will continue his argument.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the plaintiffs. The defendant was represented by Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., with whom was Mr. J. Scott Harston (of Messrs. Ewens and Harston).

JUDGMENT RESERVED.

There was the usual gathering of merchants and interested parties present in the Supreme Court, this forenoon, when the yarn case—in which Messrs. S. J. David and Company are suing their compradore (Mr. Chan Ut Chiu) to recover over six lakhs of dollars for certain losses they had sustained in certain dealings in yarn, and the counter-claim in which the compradore is seeking to recover his security ($55,000)—was resumed before the Chief Justice.

Mr. Pollock continued his argument in the same strain as was reported in our last issue, to the effect that the compradore was liable for all losses the plaintiff firm had incurred in their dealings with Chinese yarn buyers. The address was concluded shortly before one o'clock.

His Lordship reserved his decision.

"FOUR FOR EACH."

PRICE OF SCHOOL BOYS' "CHOW" DISCUSSED.

10th inst.

In the Supreme Court, this morning, before Mr. Justice Gompertz, Man Yeung Chi, a widow, residing at 106, Hollywood Road, brought an action against Mok Loi Pan, a compradore, of 23 and 25, Gage Street, to recover the sum of $1,000 under a promissory note made in favour of Man Iu (deceased). There was a counter-claim for $1,212, the amount alleged to be due to plaintiff by the deceased, Man Iu, for feeding his three sons. The sum of $212 was waived by plaintiff so as to bring the matter within the jurisdiction.

Mr. C. F. Dixon, of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings, appeared for the plaintiff. Mr. G. E. Morrell, of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell, defended.

Mr. Dixon said that the defendant admitted the claim.

Mr. Morrell denied that. His client admitted signing the promissory note, but the plaintiff, he said, owed his client money, too.

Mr. Dixon did not admit owing defendant anything.

His Lordship gave judgment and costs in favour of the plaintiff. Stay of execution was allowed.

The cross-action was then heard.

Mr. Dixon stated that a few days ago he applied to the Court to order his friend to give particulars of this claim. He telephoned his friend yesterday afternoon, but so far he had not got them.

Mr. Morrell—I gave my friend the particulars this morning.

Mr. Dixon (picking up a half sheet of paper on which was written half a line)—These are the particulars I got: "Three sons at four dollars each." (Laughter).

Mr. Justice Gompertz—You want dates?

Mr. Dixon—Yes.

This having been furnished, Mr. Morrell called the compradore to the stand. He said that he was in the employ of Abdullah and Ebrahim. The deceased was general assistant in his office, having been engaged by plaintiff. Deceased was paid $20 a month. He had three sons, who lived with plaintiff, who fed them. The arrangement between deceased and plaintiff in regard to the former's three sons was that plaintiff should feed them at $4 a month each, which deceased promised to pay. The point raised by the defence was that the promissory note said by plaintiff was not given by the deceased, nor was it written by him.

The case was adjourned.

The Banishment Orders.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEETING.

THE REGISTRAR GENERAL AND CHINESE EDITORS.

7th inst.

On Saturday, the members of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce met to discuss, among other subjects, the uneasiness in Chinese commercial circles which had been fostered by the deportation of certain Chinese merchants and the issuance of banishment orders against others. The meeting was an unusually protracted one, and much information was communicated to the whole body of the Committee by individual members which was not then known by the whole board. Of necessity, the information imparted was obtained upon confidential reports which are of interest only to the representatives of the respective branches of trade affected. After some discussion the meeting resolved to make suitable representations to the Government on the subject.

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S STATEMENT.

The Chinese papers this morning publish the fact that on Saturday the native editors were sent for by the Registrar General who made the following statement for publication:—Recently several merchants whom Government suspected of having incited the riots were ordered to leave the Colony. This gave rise to some uneasiness in commercial circles. Besides rumours had been in circulation that some one hundred more men were awaiting banishment. This later report further agitated the people's minds. These rumours were, however, without foundation and owed their origin to a misunderstanding. Should hereafter there be no further rioting or any other transgression of the law and merchants conduct their trade in a peaceable manner and do not incite the rowdy elements to disorder, the Hongkong Government have certainly no desire to banish even a single individual more.

A CHINESE PETITION.

GOVERNMENT'S CONDITIONAL REVOCATION.

10th inst.

As we announced last week a petition was being circulated in Chinese mercantile circles for presentation to the Governor in respect of the banishment orders against certain Chinese under the directions contained in which they had been deported from the Colony. We have since learnt that the memorial has been submitted for the Governor's consideration. Our efforts to obtain a copy of the petition have not met with success, but we have learnt sufficiently of its substance to be in a position to state briefly that the memorial prayed that the two Chinese gentlemen, who had been banished, Messrs. Chan Lo-chun and Chiu Sui-pok, may be allowed a hearing in their own defence. The petition bore some three hundred signatures.

In reply to the memorial the petitioners have been informed that the Governor would be willing to consider the question of the revocation of the banishment orders in respect of the two Chinese gentlemen named if they should be prepared to adopt the same course as was taken by Mr. Chan Hang-kiu. The last named individual had also been served with the warrant, but on his undertaking to publish a repudiation of his connection with the anti-Japanese boycott movement, the order was conditionally revoked. This was done upon the appearance of an announcement in a vernacular paper last week in which Chan Hang-kiu stated that his firm did not, and does not contemplate the boycotting of Japanese manufactures.

As stated above, in obedience to the banishment orders, Chan Lo-chun and Chiu Sui-pok have already left this Colony and are reported to have taken up their residence in Canton. It may reasonably be expected the Government's reply to the petition has been communicated to them. Whether they are willing to accept the conditions stipulated for the revocation of the orders against them remains to be seen.

GOVERNMENT'S REPLY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The reply the Chamber of Commerce has received from Government to their representations does not appear to have been considered entirely satisfactory. As far as it can be gathered the Government defined its action in the statement made by the Registrar General for publication in the native press, an English rendering of which appeared in our issue of Monday. The employment of one Chinese character in particular in the statement in question puts the interpretation of the Government's attitude in a light different from that which the official translation seems to imply. Our own information is that the character was capable of no other translation which is that generally accepted by the Chinese reader, and it is believed that, in consequence, further representations will be addressed to Government with a view of a proclamation or some authoritative Government statement being publicly made which will remove all doubt that apparently exists in the minds of the Chinese community in Hongkong.

SHOPKEEPER KILLED.

TOKIS ACCUSED OF MURDER.

8th inst.

The six men who were arrested on the 1st instant for assaulting a shopkeeper, by name San Cheung, at West Point, with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, were arraigned in the Police Court this afternoon on charges of murder.

It will be remembered that San Cheung was the master of a rattan shop at 240, Des Voeux Road West, and the six men in police custody were, so it is stated, formerly in his employ. Some time at the beginning of last month they were discharged, and their places filled by women, who were considered better and faster workers. There can be no question, if the report is true, that the action of the shopkeeper angered the six men, and it is alleged they swore to get level with him some day. On the night of the 28th ult. they waylaid him for several weeks, they met San Cheung in a dark part of Centre Street, returning home. One of the men struck him with a chopper and the rest with bamboo poles. They attacked the unsuspecting shopkeeper successfully, and left him for dead on the roadway. Some time later the deceased was found by the police, and during a search of his premises it was seen that besides a number of valuables about his body, the shopkeeper had secreted a cutting in the middle of the joint round which, it was said, his queue could be wound. No time was lost in sending him to hospital. San Cheung's wounds were fatal and he died on Sunday, the result of a fractured skull. His alleged assailants remanded on bail to the capital charge this afternoon, and the case was adjourned.

ALLEGED EMBEZZLEMENT.

"BOY" ACCUSED OF SWINDLING MISTRESS.

A house "boy" in the employ of a woman named Stella Brumfield, who resides at 49, Hollywood Road, was accused of embezzling a certain sum of money in the Police Court, last Monday. The case was taken by Mr. J. H. Kemp, and the defendant was represented by Mr. Otto Kong Sing.

It was alleged that defendant was sent out some days ago to collect from various people money owed on chits. Defendant, it was asserted, collected $22, but did not turn over the money to his mistress. When he was arrested defendant said that the reason why he did not pay the money to complainant was because he had not received his wages, which was exactly $22.

The case was adjourned.

A SOLDIER'S DEATH.

INQUIRY CONCLUDED.

The Coroner's inquiry into the death of Lance-Corporal T. E. Smith, belonging to the Buffs, who committed suicide on the night of the 27th November, by cutting his throat with a razor, was held at the Magistracy, as we stated in our last issue. Mr. J. H. Kemp presided as Coroner. The jurors were:—Messrs. A. Sinclair, W. Hardwick and L. W. Longstein.

Pte. Marsh stated that on the night of the 27th November, deceased asked him to lend him his cap sometime before nine o'clock. The last words he heard deceased say were: "Tell Cooper to wait; there is a sheet of foolscap on my table." Witness was in bed at the time. He had known deceased for five years, during which time, the deceased was on the best of terms with his comrades. He could not say what led deceased to take his life and in answer to the Coroner's question, said that no one had any grudge against the deceased.

Lance-corporal Barker stated that he lived in the same room as the deceased. At about nine o'clock, he saw deceased go out. Pte. Marsh was sitting in bed. Witness turned in at ten o'clock. He did not hear deceased asking for the cap. He could not say why deceased committed suicide. Deceased did not have any quarrel with anyone in the Regiment.

Pte. Dyer gave corroborative evidence and said that deceased was in the habit of telling witness about his private affairs. Deceased did not mention that he was troubled with any worries. Deceased did not complain of over-work, although he had to do a good deal of work.

Pte. Toxar stated that deceased asked for the messing to be fixed up by the drum-major, as deceased was in charge of the groceries. Subsequently, witness collected deceased's kit.

The Coroner found that death was due to haemorrhage caused through a wound in the throat. He said that the evidence showed no reason why deceased should have committed, spicide, but everything pointed to suicide. It was possible that deceased had a quarrel without the Regiment knowing it. He directed the jury to find a verdict of suicide while of unsound mind and intimated that they might add a rider attaching suspicion to anyone.

The jury returned a unanimous verdict that death was due to haemorrhage. There was nothing in the evidence to show that deceased had a quarrel with anyone.

MASTER AND SERVANT.

A FEW CIGARETTES CAUSE TROUBLE.

Forty-five cents' worth of cigarettes caused some trouble in Bertolone's Café a few days ago. The trouble came to an end in the Supreme Court, this forenoon, when one of the "boys" brought an action against the proprietor—G. Bertolone—to recover his wages, which amounted to about $15.

The bother arose over a customer refusing to pay for a quantity of cigarettes which he had received from the "boy." Mr. Bertolone stated that after the cigarettes had been given to the "boy" the latter returned and said that the gentleman had left without paying for them. The "boy" was told that his wages would be "docked" and he left the premises there and then, although it was his time for night duty. To quote Mr. Bertolone: "He did not come back that day. He did not come back the next. But on the third day he came into the shop, with a cigarette in his mouth, and in a very impertinent way, asked for his salary. I told him to come back in the afternoon. I wanted to summon him, but I could not get his address. And the next thing I got the summons."

Mr. Justice Gompertz asked whether the matter could not be settled.

Mr. Bertolone said that the matter of a few dollars was nothing to him, but he did not see why he should pay up.

Mr. Justice Gompertz—Do you want me to hear the case?

Mr. Bertolone—I leave it to the Court to decide whether I should pay or not.

The "boy," on being called to the witness-box, stated that one night last week a "gentleman" called at the Café and ordered some cigarettes. He attended to the customer, provided him with what he wanted, and waited for payment, after presenting the chit. The customer lighted one of the cigarettes and after a while complained that the "smokes" were no good, and got up and left the house, taking with him the cigarettes and the chit. The "boy" reported the matter to his master, who said that his pay would be cut. He objected.

Mr. Justice Gompertz—Are the "boys" responsible for money they receive from customers?

Mr. Bertolone—Yes.

The case was adjourned to allow the parties to come to a settlement.

GOLF.

The monthly competition for the Captain's Cup was held at Happy Valley between December 5th and December 7th. The following cards were returned:—

A. N. Paxton	86—16	=70
G. N. Orme	90—18	=72
Major Macdonald	85—10	=75
M. H. Penfold	92—17	=75
W. S. Allen	94—18	=76
E. J. Grist	82— 4	=78
D. W. Trasman	96—18	=78
U. A. Baiset	91—14	=80
H. G. R. Boucher	89— 9	=80
F. B. Deacon	89— 9	=80
C. T. Beath	87— 6	=81
Major C. D. Close	87— 5	=82
H. G. Tomlinson	92— 9	=83
C. H. Gale	98—14	=84

31 entries.

POOL.

Major Macdonald	85—10	=75
H. G. R. Boucher	87— 9	=78
M. A. Murray	85— 5	=80
Major C. D. Close	87— 5	=82
H. G. Tomlinson	92— 9	=83
C. H. Gale	98—14	=84

4 entries.

Winner of Captain's Cup.

Winner of Pool.

DROPPED WITH THE LOOT.

WHAT HAPPENED TO A COOLIE AT WANCHAI.

It happened at Wanchai in the early hours of this morning when those respectable citizens were abed, dreaming, perhaps, of its water supply. As the clocks were chiming three, a coolie emerged from a side lane, walked quickly up Queen's Road East, and came to a halt outside house No. 84. There was not a policeman in sight, and taking it for granted that the coast was clear, the coolie climbed up the waterspout by means of which he succeeded in getting to the first floor verandah. From there he manœuvred himself into the front room, thence to an adjoining cubicle, where he proceeded to fulfil his mission. He had collected a quantity of clothing, which he carefully made into a bundle, and was about to leave the house when one of the inmates was awakened by hearing a noise, which was caused by the coolie kicking over a stool, which cannoned off a partition to the floor. The excitement followed. Quietly creeping into the room the master of the house discovered the intruder in the act of leaving the now "hot bed." He pursued him around the room for several minutes, and the coolie, getting tired of the sport, ran to the window and hurled the bundle below. He was making his way out, by the same window to reach the waterspout, when he lost his footing and dropped to the roadway, a drop of about twenty feet. When the occupier of the house reached the street the coolie was lying in the gutter, breathing hard. A policeman was summoned and the coolie was removed to hospital, suffering, it is believed, from a dislocated jaw and a broken wrist. The bundle of clothing was found in the middle of the road and detained by the police.

JAPAN SUGAR REFINING COMPANY.

EXCITED MEETING.

The general meeting of the Japan Sugar Refining Company held at the Nihombashi Club, Tokyo, on Thursday, was characterised by some lively proceedings, reports the *Japan Chronicle* of 1st inst. It was known that the means taken by the President of the Company, Mr. Sakawa, to carry at the recent extraordinary meeting the proposal to purchase the Nagoya Sugar Refining Company had offended a section of the shareholders, and that there was some opposition to the proposed appointment of new directors to represent the interests of the Mitsu Bishi. It was therefore expected that some excitement would be shown, and a number of police officers were secured to maintain order. The shareholders were not mollified by the fact that the meeting was delayed by about two hours, while the directors and larger shareholders were in conference.

Introducing the report and accounts for the last half-year, Mr. Sakawa, the President, said that the demand for sugar had declined during the period because of high taxation and the general trade depression, especially in China, but the assiduous efforts made by the company to push sales during the season, the disposal at a high profit of stocks of sugar produced before the increase of the excise, and the successful operation of the Trust for the sale of sugar formed among the sugar-refining companies, enabled the company to distribute a good dividend. When the report and accounts were put to the meeting, several members sought an explanation regarding the item "stocks held or borrowed by the company" valued at Y4,906,000, appearing in the balance-sheet. Mr. Isomura, managing director, refused to give a full explanation at the public meeting. Thereupon the shareholders became greatly excited. On the advice of Baron Shibusawa, the managing director eventually gave some information concerning the nature of the stocks, and it was then discovered that the scrip in question included debentures and shares of the company itself. This only increased the excitement of the shareholders, who continued to ply the managing director with many inconvenient questions. A motion was then made to appoint a committee to investigate the matter, whereupon Baron Shibusawa intervened and said that the appointment of a committee to investigate the position of a company was generally made when the board of directors has entirely lost the confidence of the shareholders and the company was in a critical position. He thought that while the board of directors was not entirely free from error and the position of the company was not wholly satisfactory, yet the situation was not so critical as to warrant the appointment of a committee as proposed. Baron Shibusawa recommended that the matter should be considered with cool heads, for the sake of the company as well as the shareholders and that in the election of new auditors in place of those retiring, which was to be proceeded with, they should vote for gentlemen in whom they had confidence, and thus leave the attainment of their object in trustworthy hands.

In reply it was urged that as everything had already been arranged between the board of directors and the leading shareholders, the new auditors having also been decided on; the suggestion made was merely a way of evading the issue. The minority opposed to the board would not listen to Baron Shibusawa's advice, but tumultuously insisted on the appointment of a committee, thus intensifying the excitement and disorder. It was eventually decided to put the motion to a ballot, when it was lost. The motion was supported by fourteen members, representing only 4,090 shares out of the 125,135 shares represented.

The report and accounts were then approved, and the meeting passed on to the election of directors and auditors in place of those retiring. Baron Shibusawa, with the consent of the meeting, appointed Mr. Esaki and two other shareholders to nominate the candidates. Mr. Tsunekawa Shinsuke was nominated a director, and the auditors chosen were Messrs. Fujimoto Seibei (re-elected), Mayeda Kamenosuke, Uriu Shin, Imai Kihachi, and Ushioda Yoshiro (new men), the number of auditors being increased from three or five. We understand that Mr. Uriu represents the interests of the Mitsu Bishi and Mr. Ushioda those of the Mitsui.

The statement regarding the disposal of the profit for the period adopted by the meeting was as follows:—

Profit	Y805,627
Bonuses to officials and staff	56,500
Balance	Y749,127
Surplus brought over	76,107
Total	Y825,234
Placed to the legal reserve	Y 50,000
Placed to the special reserve (including Y150,000 for the fund for the redemption of debentures)	200,000
Distributed among shareholders (15 per cent. per annum)	562,500
Carried forward	12,734
Total	Y825,234

THE Chinese wives of two British engine-drivers employed on the Kowloon railway, who arrived at Victoria, B. C., by the steamer *Empress of China*, are being detained for the poll tax of $500. The husbands are appealing to Ottawa.

A NEW ICE FACTORY.

ESTABLISHED AT MACAO.

An ice factory, registered as the Him Sao Ice Factory, has just been started at Macao. The buildings have been completed and machinery installed. The works are situated on the water front in the district of Barra. The buildings cover an area some 40 metres long by 15 metres wide. All the machinery is of the Summer Poplet make and has been imported from Glasgow. The capital for the concern has been entirely supplied by Chinese who also manage and work the factory, no foreign engineers or manager having been engaged. The ice-producing capacity of the factory is one of eight tons for a working day of twelve hours. We understand that delivery of the entire output has been contracted for in Macao, Canton and Fatshan. A Hongkong Chinaman is also interested in the new undertaking in the Portuguese Colony. The Him Sao makes the second ice factory in operation at Macao; there is also a very small factory which produces two tons of ice a day for local consumption only.

THE NEW N. Y. K. BOAT.

The s.s. *Hirano-maru*, second of a series of six sister ships building for the Nippon Yusen Kaisha European service, has now been put on the berth for Europe, to sail from Yokohama on the 16th December and from Kobe on the 19th idem, being an extra service in addition to the regular fortnightly European service of the N. Y. K. Besides Marseilles, London, and Antwerp, the usual ports of call, she will call at Genoa on her way west on this particular trip. The *Hirano-maru* was built at the Mitsu Bishi Dockyard and Engine Works at Nagasaki, and is of steel, double bottom throughout, and classed 100 A1 at Lloyd's. Her length is 465 ft. between perpendiculars, beam 56 ft., and depth 34 ft. 6 in., gross tonnage being 8,600. She is fitted with two sets of triple expansion engines, and developed a speed of 16.5 knots at the official trial. Her passenger accommodation is for 83 first-class, 32 second, 12 intermediate, and 140 steerage passengers. Saloon, state-room, social hall, lounge, smoking-room, and spacious promenade deck are fitted with every modern improvement, electric light and electric fans being used freely all over the ship. Her cargo capacity is 10,219 tons, dead-weight capacity being 9,100 tons. The steamer is fitted with six 6-ton and four 10-ton derricks for ordinary cargo, there being in addition one special derrick for lifting heavy weights up to 40 tons. She will be under the command of Captain H. Fraser, and will carry a surgeon and a stewardess.—*Japan Chronicle*.

CHINESE WOMAN DROWNED.

SAD FATALITY AT KOWLOON CITY.

A sad accident, resulting in the death of a Chinese woman, took place at Kowloon City on Wednesday morning.

Fu Sam Mui, thirty-eight years of age, was a pig wash carrier residing in the village. Early in the morning she went out to attend to her ordinary duties—one of which was to carry away what food for the pigs steam launches carried. It was raining at the time the woman left her house. As she was walking along the pier, outside the Kowloon City Police Station, a strong wind caught her and sent her into the sea. The woman was carrying two empty buckets, slung over a bamboo pole, on her shoulder. Naturally, the woman clung to one of the buckets, to save her life, but on this becoming filled it took her below the surface. The accident was seen by the crew of a launch, which was in the vicinity, and steps were taken to rescue the unfortunate woman, but in vain. Her corpse was found later.

CONDITION OF MARITIME TRADE.

THE O. S. K.'S NEW AMERICAN LINE.

Mr. Nakahashi, President of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, as quoted by the *Jiji Shimpo*, remarks that Japan's carrying trade has been experiencing unprecedented dulness for many months past, but there are indications that the worst is now over. Although no improvement has actually set in as yet there are indications that things are gradually brightening up and that the advent of a new year will see the return of a better state of affairs. What is most dreaded by shipping people is not the business depression so much as an excessive surplus of tonnage. The insurance companies have now put into force a regulation regarding the age of vessels to be insured, and as a result many old ships have been left out of the field. Such being the case, more or less activity in the trade will follow as a natural consequence even without much improvement in the commercial situation.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha, having decided to inaugurate a regular line between Japan and America, is now building six steamers to be placed on the line. It is expected that the proposed line will be opened by June next year. The steamship line is to be connected with the Chicago-Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Company's line, which latter is now making preparations for the connection. While the raising of railway freightage in America occasioned much surprise in Japan, it is not likely that the trade between the two countries will be much affected thereby.

"Our company," continued Mr. Nakahashi, "recently dismissed some seventy seamen and firemen and the number of men dismissed during the last four years has reached about three hundred, but the dismissal of these men was necessitated by the discontinuance of some unprofitable services. Generally speaking, the pay of seamen has not increased in proportion to that of other workmen. Being convinced, however, of the advantage of keeping down the number of men as far as possible and of increasing the wages of the remainder, the company has effected a reduction of about 10 per cent. in the number of its employés and at the same time has increased the pay of the remainder by 6 per cent. The result has been *very satisfactory*.

"Negotiations are now progressing between the Osaka Shosen Kaisha and the Eastern Chinese Railway Company with a view to effecting a convenient connection with the Siberian Railway. In the event of the negotiations being brought to a successful issue the facilities afforded to travellers and for the transmission of mail matter will be much more convenient than at present. The prohibition of the landing of Japanese immigrants in America is felt to be a more severe blow on shipping people than the depression of the Japan-American trade. So long as the emigrant traffic was allowed as heretofore we did not worry much about the reduction in cargo. As there is no indication of the removal of the embargo on emigration we have made no provision for accommodation of emigrants in the new vessels to be put on the American line. If America is induced to allow the landing of Japanese labourers in the future from Hawaiian ports, they have to be made for their accommodation."

INTERPRETERS' FEES.

AN AUSTRALIAN CHINAMAN'S CLAIM.

In the Summary Jurisdiction Court, last Monday, Charles Hing, who was stated to have been an interpreter, brought an action against Cheung Kai and four other merchants, of Wing Lok Street and Queen's Road West, to recover $534 for services alleged to have been rendered.

Mr. A. Holborrow, of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon, was for the plaintiff; Mr. G. E. Morrell, of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrall, represented the defendants.

It was stated that plaintiff was an English-speaking Chinaman, having lived in Australia for twenty years. While in Australia he acted as interpreter to the Government. Two years ago he returned to Hongkong. The defendants were all partners in a rice shop, and engaged the plaintiff as an interpreter. The agreement was that he should be paid between $800 and $1,000 in a lump sum. The plaintiff trusted them and did not take anything in writing. Plaintiff interpreted for them for a period of three and a half months, and claimed $10.20 a day, for fifty-one days' work. He was also allowed travelling and hotel expenses. When the work had been completed plaintiff asked for payment, but was only offered $70.

The defence was that nothing was known to them about the plaintiff. He, it was stated, was engaged by one of the partners to whom he was related, and they were not liable.

The case was adjourned.

CHINA AND THE POWERS.

VIEWS OF COUNT HAYASHI.

Count Hayashi, late Minister for Foreign Affairs and formerly Japanese Minister at Peking, has of late been engaged in giving his views on international questions. We make the following extract from some remarks he made on China as given in a Press interview:—

"The Chinese seem to think it a great shame to disclose their private affairs to other people however intimate their relations may be. It is not surprising, therefore, that the outside world is not able easily to get at the real truth of the recent occurrences in Peking. It is the custom of the foreign representatives in the Chinese capital to endeavour to ascertain the real state of affairs by various means whenever an event of consequence occurs, but the result of their efforts is rarely successful. The present situation may no doubt be productive of grave consequences, but it would be rash and premature to think that it will involve a great disturbance in the Far East. Before explaining the attitude of the Powers towards China it is necessary to study the condition of the internal affairs of the country. The revolutions in the world that have been most successfully carried out include that accomplished by Peter the Great of Russia and the Japanese revolution of Meiji. The late Emperor of China left a Rescript to the people promising the inauguration of representative government nine years hence, but its realisation must be regarded as doubtful. In a despotic country like China or Russia the appearance of a wise Sovereign heralds a series of brilliant deeds in his internal administration and external policy, but government in the hands of a Sovereign of ordinary intelligence can only afford opportunity for intrigues and scheming on the part of men who banker after political power.

It is true that China is sending many men abroad for education who are afterwards to be appointed in the Government service, but the spheres of action available for these men do not, as a rule, exceed what must be regarded as technical, while the real reins of administration are in the hands of men who are conservative and whose heads are full of old-fashioned ideas. So long as these men stand at the helm of the ship of State effective reform in the administration can hardly be expected. Now that the Empress-Dowager and the Emperor, who respectively represented two opposed factions of political ideas, have been removed from the scene of the struggle it is more than likely that China will in future witness a kaleidoscopic change in her policy of administration."

Continuing, Count Hayashi says that the attitude of the Powers towards China now seems to have undergone a change, political considerations giving way to economic. Russia in order to satisfy the ambitions of certain schemers in the Court, has made the barren steppes of Siberia her colony and acquired the possession of an ice-free port in the Pacific at enormous cost. But no other European Power would embark on such an adventurous and profitless task. Wei-hai-wei and Kiaochau, held by England and Germany respectively, are of a comparatively trifling value from a commercial point of view and these Powers do not seem at all pleased with their acquisitions. The same may be said regarding the occupation of the Philippines by America, inasmuch as there is great opposition in the latter country against the possession of the islands. What the Powers aim at accomplishing in China is the expansion of the commercial spheres of influence; they do not wish to colonise a vast, unwieldy country, inhabited by teeming millions of people. The agitation for the recovery of rights now going on in China is nothing but an ebullition of an anti-foreign spirit, which will no doubt increase in intensity as the awakening of China is quickened. It is not probable, however, that the Powers will be forced to seek the partition of China unless such a contingency is deliberately invited by China herself. In any case, Japan's interests are bound down in the preservation of China's integrity and in the prevention of a possible conflagration in the Far East.—*Japan Chronicle*.

A CLEVER THIEF.

FOKI'S TRICK TO ROB HIS MASTER.

Inspector Cameron, of Shau-ki-wan Police Station, secured the arrest last night of a man named Wan Chun on a charge of stealing seven bags of cinnamon, which were valued at $110.25. Two other men—a fishmonger and a baker—were also apprehended for, as it is alleged, receiving stolen goods.

Wan Chun, up to yesterday, was a coolie employed in a grocer's shop at 8, Praya, Shau-ki-wan, and it would appear that about eight o'clock last night, after the shop was closed, he invited the other *foki* to go to a mutual friend's house for a chat. This they did. They remained there for a while, and W. n suddenly remembered that he had "some business to look after." Leaving his *foki* in the house, he returned to the shop—the master was absent at the time—and removed the cinnamon, taking it to a houseboat in the bay, and, as it is stated, selling it to the baker and the fishmonger.

Wan was found guilty of the theft and he was sentenced to six months' imprisonment. The alleged "receivers" were remanded.

STEALING two towels and a pillow case from 6, East Avenue, Kowloon, yesterday, was the charge preferred against two coolies—Chan Chung and Tsang Tam—in the Police Court, to-day. The first defendant alone was found guilty and he received a sentence of three months' hard labour. The other man was discharged.

A JUNK MASTER'S GAMB.

TIMBER MERCHANT ACCUSED OF UNLAWFUL POSSESSION.

Shum Iu Nam, a timber merchant, residing at 51, Station Street North, Yau-ma-ti, and carrying on business at Cheung-chau, was charged in the Police Court, this morning, at the instance of Sergeant Angus, with being in unlawful possession of $900 worth of pine wood, which is suspected to have been stolen.

About a fortnight ago, a cargo-boat containing about $1,000 worth of pine wood, belonging to Chan Ka U, another timber merchant, of 90, Connaught Road West, was dispatched from Canton to Macao where the wood was consigned. According to the report the cargo-boat master instead of obeying his order came to Hongkong where he disposed of the cargo, and disappeared. It was alleged that part of the wood was sold to the defendant, in whose possession were found about 400 logs.

The case was adjourned.

DISCHARGING COAL.

QUESTION OF A WAIVER RAISED.

An interesting point of law was raised by Mr. F. Pagot Hett (for the defence) in the case which was brought up on remand at the Supreme Court, yesterday afternoon, in which Lau Pui Wong, a stevedore, of 18, Albany Street, is suing Messrs. Wallem and Company, as agents for the steamer *Christian Dore*, to recover $1,278.04, for work done. The plaintiff waived the sum $278.04 so as to bring the matter within the Summary Jurisdiction Court. The claim was for discharging the *Christian Dore* of a cargo of coal.

When the case first came up for trial, it will be remembered that the defendants' compradore had consented to pay $1,000 and no more for the work done. This it was stated, was refused by the plaintiff. The point raised by Mr. Hett was that as the plaintiff had found it necessary to waive a portion of his claim ($278.04) in order to bring the matter in the Summary Court, and as the defendants were willing to pay $1,000, the amount now claimed, the plaintiff could not go back on his waiver, and was not entitled to sue for the balance.

Evidence was called to prove the contract rates for discharging coal on board ships, and the case was further adjourned.

COMMERCIAL.

WEEKLY SHARE REPORT.

Reviewing the share business for the week, Messrs. E. S. Kadoorie & Co. write this afternoon:—

Business has continued slack during the week, the only activity displayed being in Raubs.

Banks.—Further sales of Hongkong and Shanghai Banks have taken place at $850 at which rate they are obtainable at the close. The London quotation is unchanged at £82.

Marine Insurances.—Cantons have been in fair demand, and have found buyers at $195 and $197½. Unions continue to advance and buyers prevail at $825, without bringing out shares. Yangtzes have receded slightly to $165, but there are buyers at the rate. North Chinas are quoted at Tls. 102½.

Fire Insurances.—Hongkong Fires are still offering at $330. China Fires have been sold at $104, and are in further request at $105.

Shipping.—Stocks under this heading have not attracted attention, and there are no changes to report, with the exception of Shell Transports which are quoted at 48s., a slight advance on last week's quotation.

Refineries.—China Sugars remain steady at $117½. Perak Sugars are quoted at Tls. 82½ in the north.

Mining.—Raubs have been in general demand during the week, which quickly sent them up to $9½, at which rate they are now offering. They have been the medium of a fair business at rates between $9¼ and $9½. Chinese Engineerings have risen to Tls. 16½ and are in demand.

Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Hongkong and Kowloon Wharfs are quiet at $44. Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are weak at $91. Shanghai Docks have not maintained their position, and re-acted to Tls. 75 closing with sellers. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharfs have declined to Tls. 137½ at which rate they are in demand in the North.

Lands, Hotels and Buildings.—Humphreys Estates have changed hands at $9¼ and more can be had at this rate. Kowloon Lands have advanced to $35. Central Stores have improved to $14 with buyers. Hongkong Hotels can be placed at $80. Shanghai Lands have buyers at Tls. 117.

Cotton Mills.—Hongkong Cottons are offering at Tls. 10 Internationals have improved to Tls. 60, and Soy Chees to Tls. 250. Lau Kung Mows have sellers at Tls. 72½. Ewos have further improved and sales have been effected at Tls. 71.

Miscellaneous.—There are no changes in local stocks under this heading. Sumatras have improved to Tls. 125. Langkats have receded to Tls. 870.

Exchange.—The Banks' selling rate on London is 1/8 5/16 on demand. The T/T rate on Shanghai is 75⅝.

Dividends Payable.—Ewo Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co. Tls. 5 payable on 15th December. Langkats fourth interim of Tls. 10 and bonus of Tls. 10=Tls. 20 on 15th December.

YARN MARKET.

In their report dated 11th instant, Messrs. Philtosha B. Petit & Co. write:—

Our last circular was dated the 27th ult.

The fortnight under review is featureless. Early during the interval since our last report exchange suffered a further set-back with a consequent advance in price of selected threads of from $1 to $2 per bale, to which the only business transpired has been confined. While market has remained firm since with the recovery in exchange there is no appreciable changes in quotations worthy of mention.

Buyers hold back and hesitate to approach importers with higher offers. The depletion of stock in first hands proceeds apace and supplies the buoyancy against lower prices. As usual only selected threads have changed hands and all other spinnings are more or less neglected at the moment.

No. 20s.—Only a few selected threads found buyers at an advance of $1 to $2 per bale.

No. 16s.—Nothing doing.

No. 12s.—Only one thread changed hands at an advance of $2 per bale.

No. 10s.—Selected threads fetched $1 to $2 better.

Nos. 8s. and 6s.—No business reported.

The Market closes steady.

Sales:—1,000 bales of No. 12s., 200 bales of No. 14s. and 550 bales of No. 20s., in all about 2,050 bales.

Arrivals.—Per steamers *Lightning* and *G. Apcar* (from Calcutta), and *Tabasaki Maru* and *India* (from Bombay), of about 4,700 bales.

Unsold Stock.—About 6,000 bales.

Undelivered Sheds.—About 11,000 bales.

Exchange:—We quote to-day as follows:—

India	T. T.	at Rs.	137½ per cent.
"	Demand	"	137¾ "
London	T. T.	" Sh.	1/8⅛d. =$
"	Demand	"	1/8 5/16d. =$
Shanghai		" Tls.	75⅝=$100
Silver		"	22⅝d. per oz.

TO-DAY'S EXCHANGE.

Selling.

London—Bank T.T.	1/8
Do. demand	1/8 5/16
Do. 4 months' sight	1/8
France—Bank T.T.	8.28
America—Bank T.T.	45
Germany—Bank T.T.	1.72
India T.T.	137
Do. demand	137
Shanghai—Bank T.T.	75
Singapore—Bank T.T. per H.K. $100	72
Japan—Bank T.T.	82
Java—Bank T.T.	102

Buying.

4 months' sight L/C.	1/8
6 months' sight L/C.	1/8
30 days' sight San Francisco & New York	44
4 months' sight do.	45
30 days' sight Sydney & Melbourne	1/8
4 months' sight France	8.17
6 months' sight "	8.30
4 months' sight Germany	1.71
Bar Silver	45
Bank of England rate	3½ %
Sovereign	11.73

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

SINGAPORE has been proclaimed an infected port.

H.M.S. *King Alfred* will probably leave on a Southern cruise on Sunday.

CAPTAIN Jacquemont has been appointed to the French cruiser *D'Entrecasteaux* on the Far Eastern Station.

THE sale of ferns and other plants to the public from the Botanic Gardens will be discontinued after the end of this year.

THE P. and O. s.s. *Sunda*, which left London on 7th ult., took the following specie:—For Singapore, coin silver £82,688.

IT is reported that there is floating ice in the River Liao at Newchwang and the port will be closed to shipping this week.

THE annual prize distribution at St. Joseph's College will take place on Monday, the 21st inst., at 4 p.m. H.E. The Governor will preside.

THE King's exequatur empowering Mr. P. N. Tiedemann to be consul for Russia at Hongkong has received His Majesty's signature.

MR. C. McCarthy, of Sheerness Dockyard, has been appointed to Hongkong Yard, for service, as an established second class draughtsman.

FOR stealing a bundle of firewood, eleven-year-old Wong Ngan Tsai was given four strokes of the birch last Monday. The theft took place on Sunday.

His Excellency last Monday entertained Rear-Admiral and Lady Coerper, Consul and Mrs. von Wiser and Flag-Lieut. R. Wiegandt, to luncheon at Government House.

A BRANCH office of the Tacking Bank (National Bank of China) has been established at Changchun and Taotai Tang Chung-yu has been appointed Manager of the same.

THE conditions of sale for any lot of Crown land to be sold by auction will not in future be published in the *Government Gazette*. Copies of such conditions can be obtained on application at the P. W. D.

ANOTHER gang of deportees, numbering in all 175, arrived in the Colony last Monday from Singapore and Saigon. Detective G. Weir is making the necessary arrangements to "pass them on to pastures new."

THE coolie—Chan Ki—who was found the other night loitering on the staircase of 72, Queen's Road Central, "his intention being to commit a felony," was, in the Police Court, last Monday morning, sent to prison for two days as a warning.

THE Regent has ordered the Ministry of Rites to inform him as to the ceremonies which he should observe in the presence of the Emperor. Whether or not the Regent will also have to kneel before the Emperor, his own son, remains to be seen.

IT is notified that the poste restante and dead letter notices will not in future be published in the *Government Gazette*. Lists of letters, &c., remaining in poste restante will be circulated as heretofore and be placed at the Post Office and branch offices.

THE *Asahi* reports that China has consented to the Japanese request that stricter measures be taken to prohibit the Japanese boycott in South China. It is said that telegraphic instructions have been sent from Peking to the Viceroy at Canton, ordering him to dissolve the Self-Government Society.

IT is notified in the *Gazette*, that in order to reduce the bulk of the *Gazette* and for purposes of economy departmental reports will not in future be published in the *Government Gazette*. Copies of such reports and of the complete annual volumes of sessional papers can be purchased from the Government printers.

AT 2 o'clock last Monday at Government House His Excellency received the Austrian Consul who conveyed to his Excellency a telegraphic message received from his Government expressing thanks for his Excellency's cordial congratulations on the occasion of the Jubilee of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Austria.

THE native money market in Nanking has been affected by the events in Peking and it is reported that several banks are on the point of bankruptcy. H.E. Viceroy Tuan Fang is using every effort to improve the situation and has requested the Provincial Treasurer at Soochow to place Tls. 200,000 at the disposal of the Yu Ning Government Bank.

THE gunboat *Helena* has been ordered to Hongkong to replace the *Wiltshire* which was moved up to Shanghai several days ago. It has been reported for several days that several of the cruisers and gunboats would be sent to the China coast, but it is evidently not intended to send them unless an emergency should arise, says a Manila contemporary.

THE death occurred at H. M. Consular Court, Shanghai, on Saturday morning, of Mr. Thomas Brotherstone, who arrived in Shanghai from Nagasaki on the 20th ultimo and was appointed to the British Consul Court on account of the strange manner in which he had recently been acting. The deceased had been under medical supervision during the past week, but owing to the fact that he died in the night an inquest is necessary and will be held on the 11th inst.

IT is understood that a new crew will be sent out to the cruiser *Bedford* early in the new year to recommission her for further service in Far Eastern waters.

THE reports of the analyses of the public water supplies for the month of November, as certified by Mr. Frank Browne, Government Analyst, show that the water is of excellent quality.

CHAN UN, a cook, who lived in the Yan Wo boarding-house, was convicted in the Police Court to-day, and sentenced to six weeks' hard labour for robbing an A.B. from the *King Alfred* of $6 in cash.

A NAGASAKI dispatch says that the Russian East Asiatic S. S. Co. has decided to withdraw all its steamers from Far Eastern waters, with the exception of the irregular liners running between Vladivostok and Hankow.

THE Waiwupu has asked the Throne for permission to cast several hundred silver medals for distribution among the foreign officials in the employ of the Chinese Government as a souvenir of accession of the new Emperor.

THE Hongkong Philarmonic Society propose to give their first concert this season on Friday, January 8th, 1909. Practices for chorus and orchestra are now in full swing, under the able conductorship of Mr. Denman Fuller, F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M.

THE King has been pleased to approve of Senhor João Joaquim Leiria as Consul of Portugal at Hongkong; Monsieur Pierre Tiedemann as Consul of Russia at Hongkong; and Senhor João Joaquim Leiria as Consul of Brazil at Hongkong.

AT an examination of the Royal Sanitary Institute in sanitary science as applied to buildings and public works, held in Hongkong on May 25th and 27th, 1908, 1 candidate presented himself. A certificate was granted to Mr. Samuel R. Boyd.

MAJOR R. P. Robinson-Embury, who is well known at Hongkong, where he served for some years with the Army Ordnance Department, has been promoted lieutenant-colonel commanding the 4th (Howitzer) Brigade of the South Midland Territorial Force.

THE Waterworks established by the Board of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce in Peking, will start laying the mains in the principal streets in a few days' time, and pipes in the lanes after that is done. It is confidently expected that the work will be completed before the end of the year.

MR. Liang Lan-hsun has been appointed by the Waiwupu Chinese Consul for Australia. The Shanghai Taotai has been ordered to defray the expenses for the opening of the new Consulate which amount to Tls. 18,000. Mr. Liang will leave Peking for Shanghai within the next few days.

THE meeting of the Wadchai Football Club took place on Wednesday, 2nd inst., in 36, Wong Nei-Chung Road. Mr. N. E. Marques kindly presided and most of the members were present punctually at 6 p.m. for the occasion. The meeting lasted for an hour during which time many questions were discussed.

WITH regard to Mr. A. Gorton Angier's work "The Far East Revisited," which was referred to editorially yesterday (7th inst.), it should be stated that the published price is 10s. 6d. and not 10s. as inadvertently printed. The volume is profusely illustrated with some 32 full-page original photographic reproductions of scenes in the Orient.

THE United States ship *Rainbow* is under orders to proceed to Olongapo for the purpose of going into drydock and after having been thoroughly scraped it is understood that she will at once proceed to the United States. It is said that her ultimate destination will be Magdalena Bay, where she will be used as a station ship.

THE Board of the Interior has decided to instruct the Provincial Authorities to open elementary police schools in each district and secondary schools in each prefecture, in order to train men for the Police force. All superintendents, officers and men of the Police forces will be ordered to enter these schools for a course of study.

THE Admiralty announce the appointment of Engineer-Commander W.W. Hardwick to the *Tamar*, additional, for charge of machinery of the *Wivern* and for Fleet duties to date 10th ult., also of C.H. Carroll, to the *Clio*, reappointed as Assistant Paymaster in Charge, and as Acting Interpreter in French, on recommissioning to date Sept. 24.

LAST Thursday, at the Magistracy, an inquiry was held by Mr. J. H. Kemp, presiding as Coroner, and a jury, to inquire into the circumstances touching the death of Lance-corporal T. E. Smith, of the Buffs, who committed suicide on the 29th ult., by cutting his throat with a razor. Evidence was heard, and the jury returned a verdict of "suicide while of unsound mind."

THE new T. K. K. steamship *Chiyo Maru*, sistership of the *Tenyo Maru*, delivered to the Company by the Mitsu Bishi Dockyard, left Nagasaki on November 28th. After the completion of various arrangements, she will proceed to Hongkong to replace the *Hongkong Maru* on the Americas line and will leave on her maiden voyage for San Francisco on December 26. Captain Greene commands the new liner.

CAPTAIN T. C. Leah, Royal Garrison Artillery, who takes over duty at Hongkong, has been a gunner officer for just nine years, as he got his commission in November, 1899, and he was promoted captain last December. He served with the 17th Company Southern Division Royal Artillery in the South African war, 1900, and received the Queen's medal with two clasps. He takes over duty with the 83rd Company at Hongkong.

THE *Gazette* states that the King has been pleased to grant unto Mr. John Richard Harding, late Engineer-in-Chief in the Imperial Chinese Maritime Customs Service, His Majesty's Royal licence and authority to accept and wear the insignia of the first-class of the third division of the Imperial Chinese Order of the Dragon, conferred upon him by the Emperor of China, in recognition of valuable services rendered by him.

THE Ministry of War has received a report from H.E. Hu Wei-teh, Chinese Minister in Tokio, to the effect that during the performance of the Graduating exercises of one of the Japanese Military schools in Tokio Mr. Chou Chi-ping, Superintendent of the Chinese students in Japan, was stabbed in the breast by a Chinese student, and would have been killed but for another student, who was also wounded by the would-be assassin.

LIEUT. Godfrey B. J. Benyon has been appointed to the cruiser *Kent* on the China Station. This officer first donned the blue in September, 1899, was promoted midshipman in the following December, sub-lieutenant in 1904, and full-lieutenant in June, 1905. He was latterly serving on the battleship *London*, flagship of Rear-Admiral F. J. Foley, Rear-Admiral of the Channel Fleet.

NEWS has been received by telegram from Lisbon that the gunboat *Patria*, which was *en route* to Macao to relieve the *Rio Lima* has had to put back to Lisbon, as the *Patria* sprung a leak in a heavy gale which she encountered on her way out. The cruiser *Donna Amelia*, of the size of the *Adamastor*, well-known in these waters, left Portugal for China on the 27th ult.

AN unemployed coolie, with, apparently, a love for stationery, made an appearance in the Police Court to-day to answer a charge of stealing an account book, a number of postage stamps, three catalogues, a bill of lading, and a pocket book. The complainant was M. Aoki, a Japanese curios dealer, of 30, Elgin Road, Kowloon. Accused pleaded not guilty to the allegation, and the case was postponed.

A MEMBER of the crew of the steamship *China* very nearly lost his life in the harbour yesterday. The sampan which was bringing him ashore was about twenty feet away from the wharf, when the sailor started to leave the well. When he reached the deck the sampan gave a sudden list, throwing the man into the water. The boat people in the vicinity saw that the European was in difficulties and went to his rescue, fishing him out of the water, and but for the uncomfortable ducking there was nothing wrong with the mariner.

THERE are rumours that the results of the Netherlands India Trading Bank during 1908 will be very favourable. The management have been very cautious during the last few years, so that there is little to be written off. Some extra reserves will be made, and very probably an extra redemption of bonds will take place, while a dividend may be expected much higher than in the previous year. The above report is contradicted in so far that nothing is known as yet in competent circles of an extra redemption of bonds.

OUR Hongkong readers will note with pleasure the bestowal of the order of St. Michael and St. George on Sir Matthew Nathan, the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Natal. Sir Matthew has frequently had occasion to criticise the interfering policy of the British Government in the affairs of a self-governing State of the Empire, more especially in reference to the Dinizulu trial. He has had considerable experience of oversea government, having administered the Governments of Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast and Hongkong in the seven years preceding his present appointment. —*L. & C. Express.*

CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

December 10th, 1908, a.m.

			Bar.	Ther.	Hu.	Wind		W.
Vladivostock	7	a.m.	30.25	25	99	—	0	0
Nemuro	6	a.m.	30.24	—	—	W	4	—
Hakodate		,,	30.32	—	—	W	6	—
Tokio		,,	30.54	—	—	—	0	—
Kochi		,,	30.54	—	—	SW	2	—
Nagasaki		,,	30.46	—	—	E	2	—
Kagoshima		,,	30.47	—	—	ME	6	—
Oshima		,,	30.32	—	—	S	4	—
Naha		,,	30.20	—	—	E	6	—
Ishigakijima		,,	30.01	—	—	E	6	—
Bonin Is.		,,	30.36	—	—	N	4	—
Chefoo	6	a.m.	30.53	31	78	S	1	b
Weihaiwei	9	a.m.	30.52	40	—	NW	1	b
Hankow	6	a.m.	30.59	42	83	NE	1	b
Kiukiang		,,	30.52	42	92	NE	1	c
Shanghai	9	a.m.	30.46	54	80	N	1	c
Gutzlaff		,,	30.39	54	94	N	3	om
Sharp Peak		,,	30.28	58	81	N	3	o
Amoy	6	a.m.	30.14	63	83	NE	3	o
Swatow		,,	30.12	56	87	N	1	o
Taihoku	5	a.m.	30.15	—	—	E	6	o
Taichu		,,	30.02	—	—	—	0	—
Tainan		,,	30.03	—	—	N	4	—
Koshun		,,	30.02	—	—	NE	6	—
Pescadores		,,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canton	9	a.m.	30.31	55	74	N	2	or
Hongkong	10	a.m.	30.23	60	71	N	2	o
Victoria Peak		,,	—	—	—	NW	6	o
Gap Rock		,,	30.19	—	—	N	6	o
Macao		,,	30.25	58	—	NNW	3	o
Wuchow	9	a.m.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holtow		,,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pakhoi		,,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phuliên	8	a.m.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tourane		,,	—	—	—	—	—	—
C. St. James		,,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aparri	6	a.m.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manila	10	a.m.	29.96	82	85	WNW	1	o
Legaspi	6	a.m.	29.95	79	—	NE	1	c
Bacolod	9	a.m.	—	—	—	NE	0	o
Iloilo		,,	29.97	84	—	NE	0	o
Cebu		,,	29.92	83	—	N	1	o
Labuan		,,	29.89	76	—	—	—	—

December 11th, 1908, a.m.

Vladivostock	7	a.m.	30.04	30	62	—	0	o
Nemuro	6	a.m.	30.04	—	—	S	2	—
Hakodate		,,	30.13	—	—	W	6	—
Tokio		,,	30.34	—	—	—	0	—
Kochi		,,	30.39	—	—	SW	2	—
Nagasaki		,,	30.35	—	—	E	2	—
Kagoshima		,,	30.38	—	—	NE	2	—
Oshima		,,	30.28	—	—	—	0	—
Naha		,,	30.17	—	—	E	6	—
Ishigakijima		,,	30.05	—	—	E	6	—
Bonin Is.		,,	30.40	—	—	E	2	—
Chefoo	6	a.m.	30.34	36	80	S	1	b
Weihaiwei	9	a.m.	30.37	44	—	W	1	b
Hankow	6	a.m.	30.46	47	85	NW	1	o
Kiukiang		,,	30.38	49	78	NE	1	o
Shanghai	9	a.m.	30.33	53	100	NE	3	omd
Gutzlaff		,,	30.28	55	100	NE	4	or
Sharp Peak		,,	30.18	62	94	NW	1	or
Amoy	6	a.m.	30.10	64	89	NE	1	o
Swatow		,,	—	—	—	—	0	—
Taihoku		a.m.	30.18	—	—	—	0	—
Taihan		,,	30.05	—	—	E	2	—
Koshun		,,	30.04	—	—	—	0	—
Pescadores		,,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canton	9	a.m.	30.25	58	81	N	1	or
Hongkong	10	a.m.	30.18	64	75	W	1	o
Victoria Peak		,,	—	—	—	NNE	1	—
Gap Rock		,,	30.16	—	—	NNW	4	—
Macao		,,	30.22	67	—	NW	1	o
Wuchow	9	a.m.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holtow		,,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pakhoi		,,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phuliên	8	a.m.	30.24	61	—	N	1	o
Tourane		,,	30.15	68	—	—	0	o
C. St. James		,,	29.99	77	—	NW	1	o
Aparri	6	a.m.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manila	10	a.m.	30.00	81	76	—	0	co
Legaspi	6	a.m.	29.96	79	—	E	1	o
Bacolod	9	a.m.	—	—	—	NNE	1	cop
Iloilo		,,	29.95	81	—	NE	1	c
Cebu		,,	29.91	80	—	N	1	co
Labuan		,,	29.88	80	—	—	—	—

	Dec. 10 at 10 a.m.	Dec. 10 at 4 p.m.
Barometer	30.23	30.12
Temperature	60	64
Humidity	71	56
Rainfall		

SHARE QUOTATIONS.

Supplied by Messrs. E. S. KADOORIE & Co. Corrected to noon; later alterations given under "Commercial Intelligence," page 5.

STOCKS.	NO. OF SHARES.	VALUE.	PAID UP.	POSITION AS PER LAST REPORT: RESERVE	POSITION AS PER LAST REPORT: AT WORKING ACCOUNT.	LAST DIVIDEND.	APPROXIMATE RETURN AT PRESENT QUOTATION, BASED ON LAST YEAR'S DIV.	CLOSING QUOTATIONS.
BANKS.								
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	120,000	$125	$125	£1,500,000 $14,000,000 $250,000	$2,005,774	Interim of £2 for first half year @ 2s 1/9½=$21.942	5½ %	$850 sellers London £24
National Bank of China, Limited	99,925	£7	£6	£4,009 $150,000	$10,223	$2 (London 3/6) for 1903	—	$50
MARINE INSURANCES.								
Canton Insurance Office, Limited	10,000	$250	$50	$1,560,000 $232,757 $411,990	none	$14 for 1907	7½ %	$195 buyers
North China Insurance Company, Limited	10,000	£15	£5	£125,000 Tls. 150,000 Tls. 302,747 Tls. 118,277	Tls. 160,512	Final of 7/6 making 15/- for 1907	5%	Tls. 102½
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited	12,400	$250	$100	$2,000,000 £00,000 $302,478 £129,695 $727,649	$2,506,011	Final of $15 making $45 for 1906 and interim of $30 for 1907	3½ %	$825 buyers
Yangtsze Insurance Association, Limited	12,000	$100	$60	$1,000,000 $199,032 $85,157	$591,763	$12 and bonus $3 for 1906	9 %	$165 buyers
FIRE INSURANCES.								
China Fire Insurance Company, Limited	0,000	$100	$20	$1,000,000 $346,097 $13,802	$372,432	$6 and bonus $2 for 1906	7½ %	$105
Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited	8,000	$250	$50	$1,122,941	$428,027	$27 for 1906	8 %	$350 sellers
SHIPPING.								
China and Manila Steamship Company, Limited	30,000	$25	$25	$7,000	51,035	$1 for 1906	—	$14
Douglas Steamship Company, Limited	20,000	$50	$50	$264,638 $99,067	Nil.	$2½ for year ending 30.4.1908	7½ %	$33 buyers
Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboat Co., Ld.	80,000	$25	$25	$250,000 $587,500 $21,766	$17,755	$1½ for first half-year ending 30.6.08	8½ %	$89½ sellers
Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ld. (Preferred)	60,000			$17,655				
Do. do. (Deferred)	60,000	£5	£5	£10,000 £240,000	£13,755	6/- for 1907 on Preference shares only @ ex 1/9 11/16=$3. 154	5½ %	$37 $17
Shanghai Tug and Lighter Company, Limited	200,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 75,000	Tls. 14,510	Interim of Tls. 1½ for account 1908	7½ %	Tls. 48 sellers
Do. (Preference)	100,000						7 %	Tls. 51 buyers
"Shell" Transport and Trading Company, Limited	2,000,000	£1	£1	£720,000 £00,000	£63,817	Final of 1/- making 3/- for 1907 and interim of 1/- (No. 10) for a/c 1908	6 %	48/-
"Star" Ferry Company, Limited	10,000 10,000	$10 $10	$10 $5	$5,000 $47,221	$98	$1.00 $0.50 for year ending 30.4.1908	4 % 3½ %	$24 $15
Yuen Tug and Lighter Company, Limited	30,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 58,0 Tls. 42[illegible],479 Tls. 70,000 Tls. 8,000 Tls. 12,000	Tls. 6,869	Final of Tls. 2½ making Tls. 5 for 1907	11 %	Tls. 45 sellers
REFINERIES.								
China Sugar Refining Company, Limited	20,000	$100	$100	$82,538 $450,000	Dr. $279,171	$8 for year ending 31.12.07	—	$112½ buyers
Hudson Sugar Refining Company, Limited	7,000	$100	$100	$56,848	Dr. $135,182	$3 for 1897	—	$80 sellers
Perak Sugar Cultivation Company, Limited	7,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	none Tls. 100,000	Tls. 9,173	Tls. 3½ for year ending 31.8.08	—	Tls. 82½ buyers
MINING.								
Chinese Engineering and Mining Company, Ld.	1,000,000	£1	£1					
Raub Australian Gold Mining Company, Limited	150,000 50,000	£1 £1	18/10 £1	£175,000 £12,289 £4,872	£11,556 Dr. £2,191	Final of 1/6 (coupon No. 11) for year ending 29.2.08 No. 12 of 1/=48 cents	7½ % —	Tls. 16½ buyers $91 sellers
DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.								
Fenwick (Geo.) & Co., Limited	18,000	$25	$25	$53,601	$3,726	$1.75 for year ending 31.12.06	—	$12
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ld.	60,000	$50	$50	$50,000 $26,806	$3,556	Final of $2½ making $3½ for 1907	7½ %	$44 sellers
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Ld.	50,000	$50	$50	$40,000				
Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ld.	55,700	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	$76,191 $200,000 Tls. 1,000,000	$384,847 Tls. 33,742	Interim of $4 for account 1908 Final of Tls. 2½ making in all Tls. 5 for year ending 30.4.08	8½ % 6½ %	$91 sellers Tls. 75 sellers
Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Company, Limited	36,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	Tls. 697,257 Tls. 75,000 Tls. 185,000	Tls. 28,628	Interim of Tls. 4 for account 1908	5½ %	Tls. 137½ buyers
LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.								
Anglo-French Land Investment Co., Ld.	25,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100					
Astor House Hotel Company, Limited (Shanghai)	30,000	$25	$25	Tls. 25,000	Tls. 6,531	Tls. 6 for 1907	6 %	Tls. 100
Central Stores, Limited	50,128	$15	$15	$30,000	Dr. $4,200	$2½ for year ending 30.6.07	—	$16
Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited	12,000	$50	$50	$1,000	$9,178	$1.80 for 1906	—	$14 buyers
Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ld.	50,000	$100	$100	$648,975 $22,000	$14,639	Interim of $3 for account 1908	7½ %	$80 buyers
Humphreys Estate & Finance Company, Limited	150,000	$10	$10	$250,000	$36,915	Interim of $3½ for account 1908	7½ %	$93 sellers
Kowloon Land and Building Company, Limited	6,000	$50	$30	$217,426 $50,000	$4,681	70 cents for 1907	7½ %	$9½ sellers
Shanghai Land Investment Company, Limited	78,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	none	$658	$1½ for 1907	6½ %	$55
West Point Building Company, Limited	12,500	$50	$50	Tls. 1,523,045 Tls. 170,000 none	Tls. 107,547 $1,541	Interim of Tls. 3 for account 1908 Interim of $2 for account 1908	7 % 9 %	Tls. 117 buyers $46
COTTON MILLS.								
Ewo Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company, Ld.	5,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50					
Hongkong Cotton Spinning, Weaving and Dyeing Company, Limited	115,000	$10	$10	Tls. 156,000 Tls. 45,939	Tls. 8,807	Tls. 2½ for year ended 31.10.1907	3½ %	Tls. 75 sales
International Cotton Manufacturing Company, Ld.	10,000	Tls. 75	Tls. 75	$20,000	$9,553	50 cents for year ending 31.7.08	5 %	$10 sellers
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Spinning & Weaving Co., Ld.	8,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	Tls. 47,200	Tls. 8,372	Tls. 6 for year ended 30.9.06 (8 %)	—	Tls. 60
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Company, Limited	1,000	Tls. 500	Tls. 500	none	Tls. 6,308	Tls. 8 for 1906	—	Tls. 73½ sellers
MISCELLANEOUS.				Tls. 28,357	Tls. 50,663	Tls. 50 for 1906	—	Tls. 850
Asbestos Eastern Agency, Limited	8,604	12/8	12/8					
China-Borneo Company, Limited	60,000	$12	$12	£1,500	£648	3.10 per share for 1907=$1.037	12 %	$8 buyers
China Light and Power Company, Limited	50,000	$10	$10	$25,000	Nil.	$1.20 for 1907	12 %	$112
Do. Do. special shares	50,000	$1	$1				—	$5½
China Provident Loan & Mortgage Company, Ld.	125,000	$10	$10	none	61,138	60 cents for year ended 28.2.06	—	$5½
Dairy Farm Company, Limited	15,000	$7½	$6	$120,000	$3,598	80 cents for 1907	8½ %	$9½ buyers
Green Island Cement Company, Limited	400,000	$10	$10	$120,000 $8,000	$48	$1.30 for year ending 31.7.08	5½ %	$12½
H. Price & Company, Limited	12,000	$10	$10	$12,000	$5,078	Interim of 40 cents for account 1908	10 %	$10 sellers
Hall & Holtz, Limited	21,000	$20	$20	$5,000	$251	75 cents for 9 months ending 31.12.07	8 %	$12 buyers
Hongkong Electric Company, Limited	60,000	$10	$10	$186,000	$8,957	$2 for year ending 28.2.08	10 %	$20½ buyers
Hongkong Ice Company, Limited	5,000	$25	$25	none	$9,321	$2 and bonus 20 cts. for year ending 29.2.08	6½ %	$18 buyers
Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company, Ld.	60,000	$10	$10	$120,000	$4,578	Interim of $1 for account 1908	8 %	$250 sellers
Maatschappij tot Mijn-, Bosch- en Landbouwexploitatie in Langkat, Limited	125,000	Gs. 100	Gs. 100	none	$8,191	Interim of $2 for account 1908	8 %	$24
Peak Tramways Company, Limited	25,000	$10	$10	Tls. 547,500	Tls. 17,127	Interim of Tls. 10 for 3rd quarter	5 %	Tls. 270 buyers
Peak Tramways Company (new)	50,000	$10	$10	Tls. 27,093	$7,471	80 cents on fully paid shares and 6 cents on $1 paid shares for year ending 30.4.08	4 %	$14
Philippine Company, Limited	75,000	$10	$10	$5,000				$2
Shanghai Gas Company, Limited	24,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	none	Nil.	None	—	None
Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Company, Limited	30,000	Tls. 20	Tls. 20	Tls. 100,000	Tls. 6,605	Final of Tls. 4 making Tls. 7½ for 1907	6½ %	Tls. 137 buyers
Shanghai Waterworks Company, Limited	16,250	£20	£20	Tls. 24,820 Tls. 75,000	Tls. 8,493	Final of Tls. 9 making in all Tls. 14 for 1907	12 %	Tls. 135 sellers
South China Morning Post, Limited	6,000	$25	$25	Tls. 100,000	Tls. 58,132	Final of 37/6 making 52/6 for 1907	—	Tls. 485 buyers
Union Laundry Company, Limited	20,000	$ 5	$ 5	none	Dr. $90,237 $236	None	—	$24
Victoria Waterworks Company, Limited	2,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	none		40 cents for year ending 31.5.08	8 %	$5
Watson Watchout Company, Limited	50,000	$10	$10	Tls. 15,295 Tls. 4,000	Tls. 301 $134	Tls. 6½ for year ending 30.4.07 50 cents for 1907	— 5 %	Tls. 94 buyers $10
United Asbestos Oriental Agency, Limited	10,000	$10	$4	none	$1,349	$0 cents on 9,000 ord. shares and $10.80 on 100 Founders' shares for 07. and 31.5.07	6½ %	$53 buyers
Watson, (A. S.) & Co., Limited	90,000	$10	$10	$35,000	$16,438	Interim of 30 cents a/c 1908	6½ %	$9 buyers
William Powell, Limited	15,000	$7	$7	$300,000 $35,000 none	$8,903	Final of 30 cts. making 80 cts. for the year ended 30th June, 1906	—	$4

* These shares are entitled to half of the profits.

DIVIDENDS PAYABLE :—

Langkats	Tls. 20	December 15th
Ewo Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co.	Tls. 5	December 15th

Printed and Published for the Proprietors, Hongkong Telegraph Limited, by [illegible] at the Printing Offices of the Company.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

(ESTABLISHED 1881.)

NEW SERIES No. 5949 | 號八十月一十年四十三緒光 | FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1908. | 五拜禮 號一十月二十英港香 | $30 PER ANNUM. SINGLE COPY, 10 CENTS.

Banks.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL.....$15,000,000
RESERVE FUNDS:—
Sterling
£1,500,000 at 2/-=$15,000,000
Silver $14,020,000
$29,020,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS.$15,000,000

COURT OF DIRECTORS:
E. Shellim, Esq.—Chairman.
Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson—Deputy Chairman.
E. G. Barrett, Esq. | R. Shewan, Esq.
G. Friesland, Esq. | Hon. Mr. H. A. W. Slade.
C. S. Gubbay, Esq. | H. E. Tomkins, Esq.
W. Helms, Esq.,
C. R. Lenzmann, Esq.

CHIEF MANAGER:
Hongkong—J. R. M. SMITH.
MANAGER:
Shanghai—W. ADAMS GRAM.
LONDON BANKERS—LONDON AND COUNTY BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED.
HONGKONG—INTEREST ALLOWED:
On Current Account at the rate of 2 per Cent. per Annum on the daily balance.

ON FIXED DEPOSITS:
For 3 months, 2½ per Cent. per Annum.
For 6 months, 3½ per Cent. per Annum.
For 12 months, 4 per Cent. per Annum.
J. R. M. SMITH,
Chief Manager.
Hongkong, 15th October, 1908. [24

INTERNATIONAL BANKING CORPORATION.

CAPITAL PAID UP .....GOLD $3,250,000
ABOUT MEX $7,222,222
RESERVE FUND .....GOLD $3,250,000
=ABOUT MEX $7,222,222

HEAD OFFICE:
60 WALL STREET, NEW YORK.

LONDON OFFICE:
THREADNEEDLE HOUSE, E.C.

LONDON BANKERS:
BANK OF ENGLAND.
NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND, LIMITED.
THE CAPITAL AND COUNTIES BANK, LTD.

BRANCHES AND AGENTS ALL OVER THE WORLD.

THE Corporation transacts every Description of Banking and Exchange Business, receives Money in Current Account at the rate of 2% per annum on daily balances and accepts Fixed Deposits at the following rates:—
For 12 months 4½ per cent. per annum.
" 6 " 4 " " " "
" 3 " 3 " " " "

No. 9, Queen's Road Central,
Hongkong.
W. M. ANDERSON,
Manager.
Hongkong, 8th April, 1908. [25

THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, 1853.
HEAD OFFICE:—LONDON.

PAID-UP CAPITAL £1,200,000
RESERVE FUND £1,525,000
RESERVE LIABILITIES OF PROPRIETORS £1,200,000

INTEREST ALLOWED on CURRENT ACCOUNT at the Rate of 2 per cent. per annum on the Daily Balances.
On Fixed Deposits for 12 months. 4 per cent.
" " " 6 " — 3½ "
" " " 3 " — 2½ "
JOHN ARMSTRONG,
Manager.
Hongkong, 13th May, 1908. [29

NEDERLANDSCHE HANDEL-MAATSCHAPPIJ.
(Netherlands Trading Society.)

ESTABLISHED 1824.

PAID-UP CAPITAL Fl. 45,000,000 (£3,750,000).
RESERVE FUND Fl. 5,752,884.84 (about £479,407).

Head Office—AMSTERDAM.

Head Agency—BATAVIA.

BRANCHES:—Singapore, Penang, Shanghai, Rangoon, Samarang, Sourabaya, Cheribon, Tegal, Pecalongan, Passeroeon, Tjilatjap, Padang, Medan (Deli), Palembang, Kota-Radja (Acheen), Bandjermasin.
Correspondents at Macassar, Bombay, Colombo, Madras, Pondicherry, Calcutta, Bangkok, Saigon, Haiphong, Hanoi, Amoy, Yokohama, Kobe, Melbourne, Sydney, New York, San Francisco, &c.

LONDON BANKERS:
THE UNION OF LONDON AND SMITHS BANK, LIMITED.

THE Bank buys and sells and receives for collection Bills of Exchange, issues letters of credit on its Branches and correspondents in the East, on the Continent, in Great Britain, America, and Australia, and transacts banking business of every description.
INTEREST ALLOWED.
On Current Accounts 2% per annum on daily balances.
Fixed Deposits 12 months 4% per annum.
Do. 6 do. 4% do.
Do. 3 do. 3½% do.
J. L. VAN HOUTEN,
Agent.
Hongkong, 16th July 1908. [8

Banks.

YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK LIMITED.

CAPITAL PAID-UP .....Yen 24,000,000
RESERVE FUNDS .....„ 15,100,000

Head Office:—YOKOHAMA.

Branches and Agencies.

TOKIO.	CHEFOO.
KOBE.	TIENTSIN.
OSAKA.	PEKIN.
NAGASAKI.	NEWCHWANG.
LONDON.	DALNY.
LYONS.	PORT ARTHUR.
NEW YORK.	ANTUNG.
SAN FRANCISCO.	LIOYANG.
HONOLULU.	MUKDEN.
BOMBAY.	TIE-LING.
SHANGHAI.	CHANG-CHUN.
HANKOW.	

HONGKONG:—INTEREST ALLOWED.
On Current Account at the rate of 2 per cent. per Annum on the Daily Balance.
On fixed deposit:—
For 12 months .....5% p.a.
" 6 " .....4% "
" 3 " .....3% "
TAKEO TAKAMICHI,
Manager.
Hongkong, 12th September, 1908. [23

HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK.

THE Business of the above Bank is conducted by the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION. Rules may be obtained on application.
INTEREST on deposits is allowed at 3½ PER CENT. per annum.
Depositors may transfer at their option balances of $100 or more to the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK to be placed on FIXED DEPOSIT at 4 PER CENT. per annum.
For the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION,
J. R. M. SMITH,
Chief Manager.
Hongkong, 12th January, 1907. [18

DEUTSCH ASIATISCHE BANK.

CAPITAL FULLY PAID-UP...Sh. Tael. 7,500,000

HEAD OFFICE—SHANGHAI.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS: BERLIN.

BRANCHES:

Berlin	Calcutta	Hamburg	Hankow
Kobe	Peking	Singapore	Tientsin
Tsinanfu	Tsingtau	Yokohama	

FOUNDED BY THE FOLLOWING BANKS AND BANKERS:

Koenigliche Seehandlung (Preussische Staatsbank)	Berlin.
Direction der Disconto-Gesellschaft	
Deutsche Bank	
S. Bleichroeder	
Berliner Handels-Gesellschaft	
Bank fuer Handel und Industrie	
Robert Warschauer & Co.	
Mendelssohn & Co.	
M. A. von Rothschild & Soehne	Frankfort a/M.
Jacob S. H. Stern	
Norddeutsche Bank in Hamburg,	Hamburg.
Sal. Oppenheim jr. & Co.,	Koeln.
Bayerische Hypotheken und Wechselbank,	Muenchen.

LONDON BANKERS:
Messrs. N. M. ROTHSCHILD & SONS.
THE UNION OF LONDON AND SMITH'S BANK, LIMITED.
DEUTSCHE BANK (BERLIN), LONDON AGENCY.
DIRECTION DER DISCONTO GESELLSCHAFT.

INTEREST allowed on Current Account. DEPOSITS received on terms which may be earned on application. Every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.
A. KOHN,
Manager.
Hongkong, 4th December, 1907. [30

Intimations.

CHRISTMAS WEEK!
CHRISTMAS WEEK!!

Remember there is such a place in TOWN, by name THE SAVOY, where you can obtain your Christmas Outfit at Cost Price.

Do not ponder over the offer.

Call and see with your own eyes and you will be satisfied.

Hongkong, 10th December, 1908. [633

MUSIC LESSON.

LESSONS in Violin, Mandoline and Guitar at pupil's residence.
Evening engagements for Dances and Concerts.
Apply to—
E. J. LOPES,
C/o Hongkong Telegraph Office.
Hongkong, 9th March, 1908. [908

Mails.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL ON	REMARKS
SHANGHAI	DELTA ..... Capt. B. W. H. Snow.....	Daylight, 12th Dec.	Freight and Passage.
LONDON, &c., via usual Ports	DEVANHA..... Capt. W. Hayward, R.N.R.	Noon, 12th Dec.	*See Special Advertisement.*
LONDON and ANTWERP VIA SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO, PORT SAID and MARSEILLES	PALERMO..... Capt. F. B. Fergusson ...	About 16th Dec.	Freight only.
SHANGHAI, MOJI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA	SUNDA..... Capt. G. M. Montford, R.N.R.	About 20th Dec.	Freight and Passage.

For Further Particulars, apply to
E. A. HEWETT,
Superintendent.
Hongkong, 11th December, 1908. [7

Intimations.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.
TELEPHONE 97.

JUST RECEIVED

AXMINSTER PARQUET CARPETS.
Woven in one piece without seam:
Exclusive Designs.
SUITABLE FOR DRAWING AND DINING ROOMS.

AXMINSTER, WILTON & BRUSSELS CARPETS.
Select Patterns. Made any size.

KENSINGTON ART CARPETS.
In various sizes. Artistic Designs.

WINTER CURTAINS.
New Designs & Art Shades.

INSPECTION INVITED.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

Champagnes,
Sherries,
Marsalas,
Madeiras,
Brandies, Ports,
Gins, Clarets,
Whiskies, Burgundies,
Vermouths, Hocks and Moselles.
Bitters,
Liqueurs,
Ales, Beers and Stouts.

Telephone No. 75.

CALDBECK, MACGREGOR & CO.,
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS,
15, Queen's Road Central.
Hongkong, 11th December, 1908. [40

Hotels.

HOTEL PLEASANTON,
No. 17 Water Street, Yokohama.

FIRST CLASS PRIVATE HOTEL—Newly Opened and Furnished Suites or Single Rooms, Private Baths, Modern Sanitary Fittings, Electric Light, Up-to-date Appointments, Renowned Cuisine, Dark Room for Photographers. Charges Moderate.

HENRY LUTZ,
MANAGER.
Hongkong, 16th July, 1908. [69

HOTEL CRAIGIEBURN,

PLUNKET'S GAP, the PEAK, near the TRAM TERMINUS Tel. 66.

For Terms, &c., apply to the
MANAGER.
Hongkong, 2nd July, 1909. [5

Shipping—Steamers

HONGKONG, CANTON, MACAO AND WEST RIVER STEAMERS.

JOINT SERVICE OF
THE HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD., AND THE CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LTD.

HONGKONG-CANTON LINE.
S.S. "HONAM" 2,363 Tons, "FATSHAN" 2,260 Tons, "KINSHAN" 1,995 Tons.
"HEUNGSHAN" 1,998 Tons.
Departures from HONGKONG to CANTON daily at 8 A.M. (Sunday excepted), 10 P.M. (Saturday excepted).
Departures from CANTON to HONGKONG daily at 8 A.M. and 5.30 P.M. (Sunday excepted).
These Steamers, carrying His Majesty's Mails, are the largest and fastest on the River
Special attention is drawn to their Superior Saloon and Cabin Accommodation.

SERVICE OF THE HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD.

HONGKONG-MACAO LINE.
S.S. "SUI-TAI" 1,265 Tons and "SUI-AN" 1,265 Tons.
Departures from Hongkong to Macao on week days at 8 A.M. from the Company's Wing Lok Street Wharf and at 2 P.M. from the Company's Wharf.
REDUCED SALOON RATES AT WEEK-END.
Saturday A.M. or P.M. departure, returning Sunday A.M. or P.M. .....$5.
Do. do. do. do. Monday do. $6.00

CANTON-MACAO LINE.
S.S. "HOI SANG."
Departures from MACAO to CANTON on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 9 P.M.
Departures from CANTON to MACAO on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, at 5 P.M.

JOINT SERVICE OF
HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD.,
THE CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LTD., AND THE INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LTD.

CANTON-WUCHOW LINE.
S.S. "SAINAM," 588 Tons, and "NANNING," 569 Tons.
One of the above steamers leaves Canton for Wuchow every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at about 8 A.M., and the other leaves Wuchow for Canton on the same days at 8.30 A.M. Round trips take about 5 days. These vessels have Superior Cabin Accommodation and are lighted throughout by electricity.

EXCURSION TO MACAO.
On SUNDAY, 13th December,
S.S. "SUI-AN"
will depart from the COMPANY'S WING LOK STREET WHARF, at 9 A.M.
Departure from Macao at 5 P.M.
Popular Excursion Rates as usual.
Machado's String Band will play selections of Music during the trip.
N.B.—The Company also runs a steamer from Macao on Sunday morning at 7.30 A.M. and from Hongkong at 1 P.M. from the Company's Wing Lok Street Wharf.

Further particulars may be obtained at the Office of the—
HONGKONG, CANTON & MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LD.,
HOTEL MANSIONS, (FIRST FLOOR),
opposite the Hongkong Hotel. [6

Hotels.

HONGKONG HOTEL.

FIRST CLASS AND UP-TO-DATE.
Military Band during dinner on Saturday Nights.
A. F. DAVIES,
Manager.
Hongkong, 21st June, 1907. [1

FOR
LUXURY AND COMFORT,
FRESHNESS AND EXCELLENT CUISINE,
STAY AT—
THE GRAND CARLTON HOTEL.
Hongkong, 5th December, 1908. [790

ASTOR HOUSE
(LATE CONNAUGHT HOTEL.)
QUEEN'S ROAD, HONGKONG.

CENTRALLY situated, up-to-date Hotel. Recently renovated, and under entirely New Management. Large and Comfortable Rooms, Excellent Cuisine and separate Tables, Hot and Cold Baths, Electric Light throughout. Terms moderate. First Class accommodation for Families and Tourists.
Under Personal Supervision of
L. GAMEAU, Proprietor.
N. BLUMENTHAL, Manager.
Telephone, 170. Telegrams "Astor." [928

Mails.

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD,

BREMEN.

IMPERIAL GERMAN MAIL LINE.

FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
NAPLES, GENOA, ALGIERS, GIBRALTAR, SOUTHAMPTON, ANTWERP and BREMEN	"GOEBEN" Capt. B Wilhelmi	WEDNESDAY, 16th December.
SHANGHAI, TSINGTAU, NAGASAKI, KOBE and YOKOHAMA	"DERFFLINGER" Capt. G Meiners	About THURSDAY, 17th December.
MANILA, YAP, NEW GUINEA, BRISBANE, SYDNEY & MELBOURNE	"PRINZ WALDEMAR" Capt. W. v. Senden	THURSDAY, 5 P.M., 31st December.
KUDAT and SANDAKAN	"BORNEO" Capt. F. Sembill	Beginning of January, 1909.

For further Particulars, apply to

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD.
MELCHERS & CO.,
GENERAL AGENTS, HONGKONG & CHINA.

Hongkong, 10th December, 1908. [8

MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

FRENCH MAIL LINES.

FORTNIGHTLY SERVICE TO and FROM EUROPE via SUEZ CANAL.
" TO and FROM JAPAN via SHANGHAI.

FOR	STEAMERS	CAPTAINS	TO SAIL ON
SHANGHAI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA	...TONKIN	...Charbonnel	...21st Dec., P.M.
MARSEILLES, VIA PORTS	...DUMBEA	...Boyer	...2nd Dec., at 1 P.M.
SHANGHAI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA	...SYDNEY	...Henric	...4th Jan/09, P.M.
MARSEILLES, VIA PORTS	...ERNEST SIMONS	...Girard	...5th Jan./09, at 1 P.M.

Transhipment on the Co.'s Steamers at Singapore for Batavia; at Colombo for Calcutta, Bombay and Australia; at Port Said for the Levant, Constantinople and Black Sea.

Through Tickets to London via Paris from £27.10 up to £71.10. 20 hours' railway from Marseilles to London.

Interpreters meet passengers at their arrival in Marseilles.

For further particulars, apply to

P. NALIN,
ACTING AGENT,
QUEEN'S BUILDINGS.

Hongkong, 8th December, 1908. [14

JAVA-CHINA-JAPAN LIJN.

REGULAR THREE-WEEKLY SERVICE
BETWEEN
JAVA, CHINA, AND JAPAN.

Steamer.	From	Expected on or about	Will leave for	On or about
TJIBODAS ...	JAPAN	First half Dec.	JAVA	First half Dec.
TJIPANAS ...	JAVA	First half Dec.	SHANGHAI	First half Dec.
TJILIWONG.	JAPAN	First half Jan.	JAVA	First half Jan.
TJIKINI	JAVA	First half Jan.	JAPAN	First half Jan.
TJIMAHI	JAVA	First half Jan.	SHANGHAI	First half Jan.
TJILATJAP...	JAVA	First half Feb.	SHANGHAI	First half Feb.

The Steamers are all fitted throughout with Electric Light and have Accommodation for a limited number of Saloon Passengers, and will take Cargo to all Netherland India Ports on through Bills of Lading.

For Particulars of Freight and Passage, apply to

JAVA-CHINA-JAPAN LIJN.

Telephone No. 375,
YORK BUILDINGS, 1st floor,
Hongkong, 30th November, 1908. [16

WEST RIVER BRITISH STEAMSHIP COMPANIES.

HONGKONG-WUCHOW LINE.

THE Steamers "LINTAN" and "SAN-UI"

SAIL FROM HONGKONG TWICE A WEEK AND COMPLETE THE ROUND TRIP IN 4 DAYS.

These steamers have Excellent Saloon Accommodation, and are Lighted Throughout by Electricity.

THE CLIMATE ON THE WEST RIVER DURING THE WINTER MONTHS IS VERY FINE AND EXHILIRATING.

For further information apply to—

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
AGENTS,
WEST RIVER BRITISH S.S. COMPANIES

Hongkong 26th March, 1908 [1

Intimation.

THE YOKOHAMA DOCK CO., LTD.

No. 1 DOCK.

Length inside 514 ft. Width of entrance, top 95 ft.; bottom 75 ft. Water on blocks, 27.5 ft. Time to pump out, 4 hours.

No. 2 DOCK.

Length inside, 375 ft. Width of entrance, top 60.5 ft. bottom 45.8 ft. Water on blocks, 26.5 ft. Time to pump out, 2 hours.

THESE DOCKS are conveniently situated in Yokohama harbour and the attention of Captains and Engineers is respectfully called to the advantages offered for Docking and repairing Vessels and Machinery of every description.

The plant and tools are of recent patterns; for dealing quickly and cheaply with work and a large stock of material is always at hand, (plates and angles all being tested by Lloyds' surveyors).

Two powerful Twin Screw Towboats are available for taking Vessels in or out of Dock, and for taking Sailing Vessels in or out of the bay. The floating derrick is capable of lifting 35 tons.

Steam Launches of Steel or Wood, Lighters, Steel Buildings and Roofs, Bridge Work, and all kinds of Machinery are made on the premises.

Tenders will be made up when required and the workmanship and material will be guaranted.

The cost of Docking, and repair work, will be found to compare favourably with that of any port in the world.

Telephone: Nos 876, 506, or 681.
Telegrams, "Dock, Yokohama," Codes A. B. C. 4th and 5th Edt.
Liebers, Scotts, A. 1, and Watkins.

Yokohama, May 23rd, 1905. [39

Shipping—Steamers.

MESSAGERIES CANTONAISES.

FRENCH LINE OF STEAMERS BETWEEN HONGKONG, CANTON AND KOUANG-SI.

S.S. "PAUL BEAU," 1,900 tons, 14 knots.
S.S. "CHARLES HARDOUIN," 1,900 tons, 14 knots.

The speediest, most luxuriously appointed and punctual steamers on the line
Departure from Hongkong at 10 P.M. (Saturdays excepted).
Departure from Canton at 5.15 P.M. (Sundays excepted).

These superb steamers carrying the French Mail are fitted throughout with Electric Light and Fans and were specially built for this trade. Excellent cuisine.

The Company's Own Wharf near Wing Lok Street and its berth in Canton opposite Shameen.

For further particulars, please apply to the COMPANY'S OFFICE at Shameen, Canton, or to their Agents
BARRETTO & CO., Hongkong.

Hongkong, 9th October, 1908. [21

Intimations.

INTERNATIONAL SLEEPING CAR and EXPRESS TRAINS Co.
(THE GREAT TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE TO EUROPE.)

HAVING been appointed AGENTS for the above Company, we shall be pleased to give any information as to rates of passage, &c., in connection with above.

SHEWAN, TOMES & CO.
Agents.

Hongkong, 21st July, 1908. [47

THERAPION MAY NOW ALSO BE OBTAINED IN DRAGEE (TASTELESS) FORM.

A WONDERFUL DISCOVERY.

This is the age of research and experiment, when all nature, so to speak, is ransacked by the scientific for the comfort and happiness of man. Science has indeed made giant strides during the present century, and among the—by no means least important—discoveries in medicine comes that of

THERAPION.

This preparation is unquestionably one of the most genuine and reliable Patent Medicines ever introduced, and has, we understand, been used in the Continental Hospitals by Ricord, Rostan, Jobert, Velpeau, Malgaigne, the well-known Chassaignac, and indeed by all who are regarded as authorities in such matters, including the celebrated Lallemand, and Roux, by whom it was many times since uniformly adopted, and that it is worthy the attention of those who require such a remedy we think there is no doubt. From the time of Aristotle downwards, a potent agent in the removal of these diseases has (like the famed philosopher's stone) been the object of search of some hopeful generous minds; and far beyond the mere power if such could ever have been discovered—of transmuting the baser metals into gold is surely the discovery of a remedy so potent as to quench at the full the raging energies of the confirmed *roué* in the one case, and in the other so effectually, speedily and safely to expel from the system without the aid, or even the knowledge, of a second party, the poisons of acquired or inherited disease in all their protean forms as to leave no taint or trace behind. Such is

THE NEW FRENCH REMEDY
THERAPION

which may certainly rank with, if not take precedence of, many of the discoveries of our day, about which so little contention and noise have been made, and the contentious and ever-increasing demand that has been created for this medicine wherever introduced appears to prove that it is destined to cast into oblivion all those questionable remedies that were formerly the sole reliance of medical men. Therapion may be obtained of the principal chemists and merchants throughout the world.—*Diamond Fields Advertiser*, KIMBERLEY.

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A Large and Fancy Assortment of
The Best FRENCH TOYS, DOLLS,
TOM SMITH'S CRACKERS,
CADBURY'S CHOCOLATE,
PERNOT BISCUITS,
&c., &c., &c.

Hongkong, 21st November, 1908. [91

PABST BREWING COMPANY, MILWAUKEE.

FRESH SUPPLIES
ALWAYS KEPT IN STOCK
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SIEMSSEN & Co.,
Agents for
HONGKONG & SOUTH CHINA.

Hongkong, 29th July, 1907. [66

LEE YEE
HAIR DRESSING SALOON.

HAS ALWAYS ON HAND
CIGARS, CIGARETTES
AND
TOILET REQUISITES
FOR SALE.
12, D'AGUILAR STREET,
HONGKONG.

Hongkong, 3rd September, 1907. [6

DELAGOA BAY.

The storm centre of South Africa just now can be located at Delagoa Bay, and, fortunately, the winds are not fanned by Bellona, but by some more peaceful goddess of industry. But, nevertheless, they are boisterous enough and deserve strict attention from the political meteorologist. For it is really around Delagoa Bay that the great and absorbing question of the closer union of the South African States turns. Let us see how this has come about. The late Sir Bartle Frere, whose political sagacity lives after him on nearly every vexed and contentious South African question, once expressed an opinion that the best diplomatist was the best geographer—or something very much to this effect. He foresaw, as a geographer and as a traveller (for Sir Bartle had gone to Zanzibar in the *Enchantress* on his well-known mission to Seyd Barghash), that South African harbours were rare and that Delagoa Bay was an exceptionally favourable anchorage.

Not to dwell upon past history, whether embodied in Frere memoranda, thirty years ago, the MacMahon Award, the Morier negotiations at Lisbon, and the Portuguese diplomacy, which has certainly varied if not "wobbled" with the political status of the Transvaal itself, from time to time, the fact remains that Delagoa Bay, being the natural port of the goldfields, occupies now a leading position amongst South African ports. Indeed, Lourenzo Marques may be likened to a gigantic cuckoo fed, not by the mother bird, Portugal, but by such foster-mothers as the four South African States. As a natural harbour Delagoa Bay is about forty miles nearer, as the crow flies, to Johannesburg than Durban. Its advantages are so great that, while Natal politicians, since the days of the far-seeing Sir H. Escombe, have spent huge sums of money in deepening and scouring their anchorage and thereby incurred large public debts, the happy owners of Delagoa Bay have been obliged to spend comparatively small sums. The Portuguese owe it largely to British and American capitalists that Delagoa Bay is what it is. Nay, more; they owe it in the first instance to foreigners that the narrow strip between Delagoa Bay and the Sebombo Mountains, and so to the Transvaal, was spanned by a railway. Sitting at the receipt of custom, the Portuguese officials, favoured by what must be really called the lucky verdict of Marshal MacMahon, have reaped where they have never sown. At the same time Portugal and England have been, and we hope always will continue to be, very good friends.

At first, as in the case of Kimberley, the merchandise required by the Rand was brought by ox-waggons from the nearest terminus on the Natal and Cape Colony lines. To begin with, the advantage seemed to lie with Natal as the nearest port. But Cape Colony was alive to the situation, and in 1889 and 1891 made arrangements with the then Orange Free State, throwing a railway across its territory, and by May, 1892, was unloading at Viljoen's Drift goods from trucks which Cape merchants had loaded up at Cape Town docks. By September, 1892, both Port Elizabeth and East London, two other Cape Colony ports, were linked to the Rand. For the moment Cape Colony's arrangement with the Orange Free State gave her a practical monopoly. The ox-waggons which lumbered heavily from Delagoa Bay, on the one hand, and the Natal border, on the other, were doomed—they could not compete with the iron horse.

But neither Natal nor Delagoa Bay was far behind in this race for the Rand, and arrangements were made by the Transvaal for linking both with the Netherlands Railway, via Delagoa Bay, and with the Natal system at Laing's Nek. By December, 1895, goods were delivered at Johannesburg from railway trucks which had travelled, not simply from the Cape Colony ports, but also from Port Durban and Delagoa Bay. Cape Colony, which had done so much and had expended so much, began to feel the pinch. State railways in the Colonies earn at times a good percentage (the Cape railways earned eight per cent.), but the earnings so acquired are needed to pay the interest on loans, and the interest on loans is a somewhat imperative matter. The Transvaal also, under Kruger and his favourites, began to take even a commercially hostile view in 1895 of the Cape Colony, of which the closing of the Drifts was a most notable sign.

The Netherlands Railway was beginning to exercise its most mischievous and disintegrating influence on South African politics. Even the Boers of the Western Province of the Cape were aghast at the selfish action of the Transvaal and the policy of their own kith and kin. The old districts of the Paarl, Stellenbosch, Wellington, and Worcester saw the Transvaal, in its halcyon days of prosperity, turn away from them, and this, too, at a time when, owing to the devastations of the phylloxera, the old Cape Colony districts needed a market for their fruit and vegetables at Johannesburg. The disintegrating power of rival railway systems could not have a stronger or more piquant illustration than in this incident of the closing of the Drifts. It illustrates also the innate selfishness of political States which in their comparative political nonage, desire to assume too prominent a rôle. The Transvaal of Kruger days wished to read a lesson to their weaker brethren, still under malign influences down in the south. They were made to feel that the "hub" of the South American universe was at Pretoria.

The unification of all the South African railways is a condition precedent to South Africa union or confederation. During the Boer war the railways of the Orange River and Transvaal Colonies were in the hands of the military officers. Lord Milner had a difficult matter to adjust when his task of civil administration began. As High Commissioner of South Africa he was interested to secure a fair share of the traffic to the goldfields through Cape Colony ports and Natal; as Governor of the Orange River Colony he had their interests to serve; and, lastly, as Governor of the Transvaal it was his duty to see that the Transvaal lines were run to the best advantage of the Transvaal. His duties were certainly conflicting, and he did all he could by amalgamating the Transvaal and Orange River railways. The question now is whether the railway systems of all four South African States cannot be amalgamated and the earnings of all the public railways "pooled" and devoted to the uses of the respective States in a certain fair proportion. *Hic labor, hoc opus est!* It may at once be remarked that this task has been made more difficult by the hasty and premature gift of responsible government, showered upon the Orange River and Transvaal Colonies. All were agreed that such a gift was bound to come, and the Unionist party were quite ready to acknowledge this, but it is obvious that under existing circumstances responsible government has accentuated political differences and strengthened certain artificial distinctions on the political map of South Africa which Lord Selborne deplores in his memorandum. Could not "Responsible Government" have waited upon such a paramount question as the "Unification of South African Railways"? The direct action of the Imperial Government, especially as it could have been exerted upon Portugal and the position at Delagoa Bay, would have been made more easy and straightforward.

In his recent memorandum (1907) Lord Selborne emphasises the railway problem by means of statistics. It must be remembered that to reach Johannesburg from Cape Town a journey of over 900 miles is involved; from Port Elizabeth, over 700 miles; from Natal, 400 miles; from Delagoa Bay, about 350 miles. The distances from the southern ports to the Rand are indeed crushing, and they have proved themselves so. The transference of traffic from the British ports to the Portuguese port has been sudden. In November, 1902, over 29,000 tons of merchandise for the Transvaal entered by the Cape ports. In the month of August, 1906, barely four years afterwards, this had fallen to under 5,000 tons. No wonder the merchants of the Cape Rialto are wringing their hands over the new route. In Natal the story is practically the same. In November, 1902, over 21,000 tons of merchandise for the Transvaal entered by Durban; in August, 1906, this had fallen to under 21,000 tons. The foreign port, Delagoa Bay, had jumped up from 14,000 tons to 21,000 tons.

The Natal drop is not as bad as the Cape Colony drop, and it looks as if the fight with Delagoa Bay—if it comes to this—must be made at Natal. Recourse may be had, as Lord Selborne points out, to legislation which will check a natural tendency to import by the nearest (but still a foreign) route. For this tendency, as now exhibited in South Africa, is an unnatural tendency, and bars the way to South African union and progress. There was a similar crisis in the history of the United States when George Washington, rather than use American trade to develop a Spanish port on his frontier, was prepared to change the course of nature itself and to convey the traffic of the Mississippi by canals to the sea, eastwards, to the Potomac. The first duty of patriotism is towards one's own country. In the case of South Africa the four South African States should arrange between themselves how to be the carriers of their own imports at all costs, even if the present *modus vivendi* with Portugal has to be denounced. This is another question now made more difficult by the exclusion of Chinese labour and the policy of the present Government.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

Intimations

THE CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN AND MORTGAGE CO., LD.

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(Rates and Particulars on application).

THE OFFICE OF
TRUSTEE, EXECUTOR OF WILLS, ATTORNEY, &c.,
Undertaken and Executed.
SHEWAN, TOMES & CO.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 10th March, 1908. [48

COLD STORAGE.

THE HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LTD. have now 40,000 Cubic feet of COLD STORAGE available at EAST POINT. Stores will be Open at 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. daily, Sunday excepted, to receive and deliver perishable goods.

WM. PARLANE,
Manager.

Hongkong, 22nd June, 1907. [18

BENGER'S Food

is quite distinct from any other. It possesses the remarkable property of rendering milk, with which it is mixed when used, quite easy of digestion by children, invalids and convalescents.

Benger's Food is sold in Tins by Chemists, etc., everywhere.

[721—A

Intimation.

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GRAND CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

NOW OPEN.

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Every conceivable kind of Toy,

From 10 Cents to 35 Dollars.

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A gorgeous array of Fairies, dressed, partly dressed and undressed,

From 25 Cents to 30 Dollars each.

ANIMALS

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Including:

Polar Bears, Grizzly Bears, Teddy Bears, Hares, Rabbits, Terriers, Bulldogs, Spaniels, Monkeys, Cats, Donkeys, Horses, Elephants, etc., etc., etc.

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XMAS TREE Decorations and Ornaments GALORE.

Rocking Horses, Tricycles, Hobby Horses, &c., &c., &c.

Fancy Goods.

POWELL'S

ALEXANDRA BUILDINGS.

Hongkong, 4th December, 1908. [29

Intimations.

YOU WILL NOT be deceived. That there are cheats and frauds in plenty everybody knows; but it is seldom or never that any large business house is guilty of them, no matter what line of trade it follows. There can be no permanent success of any kind based on dishonesty or deception. There never was, and never will be. The men who try that are simply fools and soon come to grief—as they deserve. Now many persons are, nevertheless, afraid to buy certain advertised articles lest they be humbugged and deluded; especially are they slow to place confidence in published statements of the merits of medicines. The remedy known as WAMPOLE'S PREPARATION is as safe and genuine an article to purchase as flour, silk or cotton goods from the mills of manufacturers with a world-wide reputation. We could not afford to exaggerate its qualities or misrepresent it in the least; and it is not necessary. It is palatable as honey and contains the nutritive and curative properties of Pure Cod Liver Oil, extracted by us from fresh cod livers, combined with the Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites and the Extracts of Malt and Wild Cherry; and how valuable such a blending of these important medicinal agents must be is plain to everybody. It is beyond price in Anemia, Insomnia, Weakness and lack of Nervous Tone, Poor Digestion, Wasting Diseases, La Grippe, Lung Troubles and Blood Impurities. Science can furnish nothing better—perhaps nothing so good. Dr. W. H. Dalfe, of Canada, says: "I have used it in my practice and take pleasure in recommending it as a valuable tonic and reconstructive." It is a remedy that can afford to appeal to its record and represents the science and knowledge of bright and aggressive medical investigation. Effective from the first dose. "You cannot be disappointed in it." Like all good things it is imitated. Sold by chemists throughout the world. 3

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TIME TABLE

WEEK DAYS

7.00 a.m.		
7.30 a.m.	to 9.30 a.m.	...Every 10 minutes
9.30 a.m.	to 11.00 a.m.	...Every 15 minutes.
11.30 a.m.	to 12.45 p.m.	...Every 15 minutes.
12.45 p.m.	to 1.15 p.m.	...Every 10 minutes
1.15 p.m.	to 1.45 p.m.	...Every 15 minutes
1.45 p.m.	to 2.15 p.m.	...Every 10 minutes
2.15 p.m.	to 5.00 p.m.	...Every 15 minutes.
5.30 p.m.	to 5.00 p.m.	...Every 15 minutes
5.00 p.m.	to 8.00 p.m.	...Every 10 minutes.

NIGHT CARS.

8.45 p.m. and 9 p.m., 9.45 p.m to 11.15 p.m. every half hour.

SUNDAYS

8.00 a.m.	to 9.00 a.m.	...Every 15 minutes.
9.00 a.m.	to 9.30 a.m.	...Every 30 minutes.
9.30 a.m.	to 10.30 a.m.	...Every 15 minutes.
10.30 a.m.	to 11.00 a.m.	...Every 10 minutes.
11.45 a.m.	to 12.00 noon	...Every 15 minutes.
12.00 Noon	to 1.00 p.m.	...Every 10 minutes
1.00 p.m.	to 5.00 p.m.	...Every 15 minutes.
5.00 p.m.	to 6.00 p.m.	...Every 10 minutes
6.00 p.m.	to 7.00 p.m.	...Every 15 minutes
7.00 p.m.	to 8.00 p.m.	...Every 10 minutes

NIGHT CARS as on Week Days.

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Extra cars at 3.15 p.m., 11.30 p.m. and 11.45 p.m.

SPECIAL CARS by Arrangement at the Company's Office, ALEXANDRA BUILDINGS, Des Voeux Road Central.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON, General Managers.

Hongkong, 4th June, 1908. [67

THERAPION MAY NOW ALSO BE OBTAINED IN DRAGEE (TASTELESS) FORM.

THE NEW FRENCH REMEDY

TRADE THERAPION MARK.

This successful and highly popular remedy, used in the Continental Hospitals by Ricord, Rostan, Jobert, Velpeau and others, combines all the desiderata to be sought in a medicine of the kind, and surpasses everything hitherto employed.

THERAPION No. 1 in a remarkably short time, often a few days only, removes all discharges, effectually superseding injections, the use of which does irreparable harm by laying the foundation of stricture and other serious diseases. In dysentery, piles, irritation of the lower bowel, cough, bronchitis, asthma, and some of the more trying complaints of this kind, it will be found astonishingly efficacious, affording prompt relief where other well-tried remedies have been powerless.

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Dentistry.

TSIN TING.

ATEST METHODS OF DENTISTRY.

STUDIO AT NO. 14, D'AGUILAR STREET.

REASONABLE FEES.

Consultation Free.

Hongkong, 20th June, 1908. [60

Dr. M. H. CHAUN,

THE LATEST METHOD of the AMERICAN SYSTEM OF DENTISTRY

12, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL,

From the University of Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

Hongkong, 15th April, 1907 [59

CONDITION OF MARITIME TRADE.

THE O S K.'S NEW AMERICAN LINE.

Mr. Nakahashi, President of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, as quoted by the *Jiji Shimpo*, remarks that Japan's carrying trade has been experiencing unprecedented dulness for many months past, but there are indications that the worst is now over. Although no improvement has actually set in as yet there are indications that things are gradually brightening up and that the advent of a new year will see the return of a better state of affairs. What is most dreaded by shipping people is not the business depression so much as an excessive surplus of tonnage. The insurance companies have now put into force a regulation regarding the age of vessels to be insured, and as a result many old ships have been left out of the field. Such being the case, more or less activity in the trade will follow as a natural consequence even without much improvement in the commercial situation.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha, having decided to inaugurate a regular line between Japan and America, is now building six steamers to be placed on the line. It is expected that the proposed line will be opened by June next year. The steamship line is to be connected with the Chicago-Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Company's line, which latter is now making preparations for the connection. While the raising of railway freightage in America occasioned much surprise in Japan, it is not likely that the trade between the two countries will be much affected thereby.

"Our company," continued Mr. Nakahashi, "recently dismissed some seventy seamen and firemen and the number of men dismissed during the last four years has reached about three hundred, but the dismissal of these men was necessitated by the discontinuance of some unprofitable services. Generally speaking, the pay of seamen has not increased in proportion to that of other workmen. Being convinced, however, of the advantage of keeping down the number of men as far as possible and of increasing the wages of the remainder, the company has effected a reduction of about 10 per cent in the number of its employés and at the same time has increased the pay of the remainder by 6 per cent. The result has been very satisfactory.

"Negotiations are now progressing between the Osaka Shosen Kaisha and the Eastern Chinese Railway Company with a view to effecting a convenient connection with the Siberian Railway. In the event of the negotiations being brought to a successful issue the facilities afforded to travellers and for the transmission of mail matter will be much more convenient than at present. The prohibition of the landing of Japanese immigrants in America is felt to be a more severe blow on shipping people than the depression of the Japan-American trade. So long as the emigrant traffic was allowed as heretofore we did not worry much about the reduction in cargo. As there is no indication of the removal of the embargo on emigration we have made no provision for accommodation of emigrants in the new vessels to be put on the American line. If America is induced to allow the landing of Japanese labourers in the future fresh arrangements will have to be made for their accommodation."

CHINA AND THE POWERS.

VIEWS OF COUNT HAYASHI.

Count Hayashi, late Minister for Foreign Affairs and formerly Japanese Minister at Peking, has of late been engaged in giving his views on international questions. We make the following extract from some remarks he made on China as given in a Press interview:—

"The Chinese seem to think it a great shame to disclose their private affairs to other people however intimate their relations may be. It is not surprising, therefore, that the outside world is not able easily to get at the real truth of the recent occurrences in Peking. It is the custom of the foreign representatives in the Chinese capital to endeavour to ascertain the real state of affairs by various means whenever an event of consequence occurs, but the result of their efforts is rarely successful. The present situation may no doubt be productive of grave consequences, but it would be rash and premature to think that it will involve a great disturbance in the Far East. Before explaining the attitude of the Powers towards China it is necessary to study the condition of the internal affairs of the country. The revolutions in the world that have been most successfully carried out include that accomplished by Peter the Great of Russia and the Japanese revolution of Meiji. The late Emperor of China left a Rescript to the people promising the inauguration of representative government nine years hence, but its realisation must be regarded as doubtful. In a despotic country like China or Russia the appearance of a wise Sovereign heralds a series of brilliant deeds in his internal administration and external policy, but government in the hands of a Sovereign of ordinary intelligence can only afford opportunity for intrigues and scheming on the part of men who hanker after political power. . . .

It is true that China is sending many men abroad for education who are afterwards to be appointed in the Government service, but the spheres of action available for these men do not, as a rule, exceed what must be regarded as technical, while the real reins of administration are in the hands of men who are conservative and whose heads are full of old-fashioned ideas. So long as these men stand at the helm of the ship of State effective reform in the administration can hardly be expected. Now that the Empress-Dowager and the Emperor, who respectively represented two opposed factions of political ideas, have been removed from the scene of the struggle it is more than likely that China will in future witness a kaleidoscopic change in her policy of administration."

Continuing, Count Hayashi says that the attitude of the Powers towards China now seems to have undergone a change, political considerations giving way to economic. Russia in order to satisfy the ambitions of certain schemers in the Court, has made the barren steppes of Siberia her colony and acquired the possession of an ice-free port in the Pacific at enormous cost. But no other European Power would embark on such an adventurous and profitless task. Wei-hai-wei and Kiaochau, held by England and Germany respectively, are of a comparatively trifling value from a commercial point of view and these Powers do not seem at all pleased with their acquisitions. The same may be said regarding the occupation of the Philippines by America, inasmuch as there is great opposition in the latter country against the possession of the islands. What the Powers aim at accomplishing in China is the expansion of the commercial spheres of influence; they do not wish to colonise a vast, unwieldy country, inhabited by teeming millions of people. The agitation for the recovery of rights now going on in China is nothing but an ebullition of an anti-foreign spirit, which will no doubt increase in intensity as the awakening of China is quickened. It is not probable, however, that the Powers will be forced to seek the partition of China unless such a contingency is deliberately invited by China herself. In any case, Japan's interests are bound down in the preservation of China's integrity and in the prevention of a possible conflagration in the Far East.—*Japan Chronicle.*

THE NEW N. Y. K. BOAT.

The s.s. *Hirano-maru*, second of a series of six sister ships building for the Nippon Yusen Kaisha European service, has now been put on the berth for Europe, to sail from Yokohama on the 16th December and from Kobe on the 17th idem, being an extra service in addition to the regular fortnightly European service of the N. Y. K. Besides Marseilles, London, and Antwerp, the usual ports of call, she will call at Genoa on her way west on this particular trip. The *Hirano-maru* was built at the Mitsu Bishi Dockyard and Engine Works at Nagasaki, and is of steel, double bottom throughout, and classed 100 A1 at Lloyd's. Her length is 465 ft. between perpendiculars, beam 56 ft., and depth 34 ft. 6 in., gross tonnage being 8,600. She is fitted with two sets of triple expansion engines, and developed a speed of 16.5 knots at the official trial. Her passenger accommodation is for 83 first-class, 32 second, 12 intermediate, and 140 steerage passengers. Saloon, state-room, social hall, lounge, smoking-room, and spacious promenade deck are fitted with every modern improvement, electric light and electric fans being used freely all over the ship. Her cargo capacity is 10,219 tons, dead-weight capacity being 9,100 tons. The steamer is fitted with six 6-ton and four 10-ton derricks for ordinary cargo, there being in addition one special derrick for lifting heavy weights up to 40 tons. She will be under the command of Captain H. Fraser, and will carry a surgeon and a stewardess.—*Japan Chronicle.*

Intimations.

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A Selected Variety of

XMAS & NEW YEAR and ENGLISH HAND-MADE PRIVATE GREETING CARDS.

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RELIEF SCRAPS

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PRICES MODERATE.

INSPECTION INVITED.

GRACA & CO.

Hongkong, 27th November, 1908. [1074

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Intimations.

SAINT-RAPHAEL

TONIC, RESTORATIVE, DIGESTIVE WINE

Very palatable.

Known throughout the world and prescribed in all cases of Anæmia, Debility and Convalescence, to young women, children and the aged. Invaluable in hot climates.

DOSE: One wine-glass after the two principal meals.

Each bottle of genuine VIN SAINT-RAPHAEL *bears, in addition to the registered trade-mark:*

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CLETEAS *is a* MELISSA *and* MINT *cordial which surpasses all others by its purity and faultless preparation. To be taken on a lump of sugar.*

COMPAGNIE du VIN SAINT-RAPHAEL, Valence (Drôme-France).

LAZARUS MADRESO & Co., Hongkong.

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

PORTLAND CEMENT.

In Casks of 375 lbs. net $5.50 per Cask ex Factory.

In Bags of 250 lbs. net $3.15 per Bag ex Factory

SHEWAN TOMES & Co., General Managers.

Hongkong, 15th August, 1908. [815

FURNITURE WAREHOUSE.

LI KWONG LOONG & CO.,

利 昌 傢 具 亭

CABINET-MAKERS AND ART DECORATORS, from Shanghai, has re-opened their FURNITURE STORE at No. 39, DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL. The only Shop in Hongkong with this name.

WHERE HIGH-CLASS FURNITURE of every description can be made to order in any design required.

Have been patronised by the Hongkong Club, Hongkong Hotel, Telegraph Co., Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co., Firms and other leading Establishments in the Colony, to whom reference can be made as to the Superior Workmanship and Materials of the Furniture, &c., supplied.

Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd., write as follows:—

"We have pleasure in stating that Mr. LI KWONG LOONG furnished the Annexe to our Dispensary and gave us every satisfaction."

(Sd.) A. S. WATSON & Co.

ORDERS punctually attended to, and CHARGES most moderate.

AN INSPECTION INVITED.

Hongkong, 6th August, 1908 [715

D. NOMA,

PROFESSIONAL TATTOOER AND THE EXPERT REMOVER OF TATTOO MARKS,

No. 60 QUEEN'S ROAD, CENTRAL.

PATRONISED by Prince of Wales, then H. R. H. The Duke of York, and H. R. H. The Emperor of Russia, and having 4,500 testimonials from all sources.

My 34 years' experience in tattooing is a guarantee of good work and prompt execution. My colours are absolutely fast and perfectly harmless, and produce a charming effect not attained by any other, as their composition is only known to me. In tattooing unlike some species of engravings, care must be taken to have the work done in a perfect, high toned manner. In order to take special precaution against possible dangers, I use fresh materials daily.

The copying of Portraits with distinct minuteness a speciality.

Hongkong, 1st September, 1908. [804

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A BROKEN-DOWN SYSTEM

This is a condition (or disease) to which doctors give many names, but which few of them really understand. It is simply weakness—a break-down, as it were, of the vital forces that sustain the system. No matter what may be its causes (for they are almost numberless), its symptoms are much the same: the more prominent being deep-seated sense of prostration or weariness, dread of exertion, mental and physical, a want of energy for all the ordinary affairs of life. Now, what alone is required in all such cases is *increased vitality*—

VITAL STRENGTH & ENERGY to throw off these morbid feelings, and experience proves that as night succeeds the day this may be most certainly secured by a course of

THE NEW FRENCH REMEDY

THERAPION No. 3

than by any other known combination. So certain is it to take in accordance with the printed directions accompanying it, will the shattered health be restored.

THE EXPIRING LAMP OF LIFE LIGHTED UP AFRESH

and a new existence imparted in place of what had so lately seemed worn-out, "used up," and valueless. This wonderful medicament is purely vegetable and innocuous, is agreeable to the taste, suitable for all constitutions and conditions, is never cloying, and it is difficult to imagine a case of disease or derangement, whose most fantastic symptoms are shades of gloom, that will not be promptly and permanently banished by this marvellous preparation, which is destined to cast into oblivion everything that had preceded it for the treatment and cure of that class of human ailments.

THERAPION is sold by principal Chemists throughout the world. Price in England 4/6 per packet. Purchasers should see that the word THERAPION appears on the British Government Stamp in white letters on a red ground affixed to every package by order of His Majesty's Commissioners of Inland Revenue, and without which it is a forgery.

Sold by all Chemists. [67—F

Consignees.

FROM EUROPE.

THE H. A. L. Steamship "ISTRIA," Captain Lüning, having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby requested to send in their Bills of Lading for countersignature by the Undersigned and to take immediate delivery of their goods from alongside.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless notice to the contrary be given before TO-DAY.

Any Cargo impeding her discharge will be landed at consignees' risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.

All Claims must be presented within ten days of the steamer's arrival here after which date they cannot be recognised.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 14th inst., will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 14th inst., at 3 P.M.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

HAMBURG-AMERIKA LINIE, Hongkong Office.

Hongkong, 7th December, 1908. [1095

S.S. "ERNEST SIMONS."

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo from London ex s.s. *Dordogne* and *Medoc*, from Bordeaux ex s.s. *Ville de Constantine* and *Ville de Dunkerque*, in connection with above Steamer are hereby informed that their Goods, with the exception of Opium, Treasure and Valuables are being landed and stored at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Limited, at Kowloon, whence delivery may be obtained immediately after landing.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless intimation is received from the Consignees before 6 P.M., TO-DAY, requesting it to be landed here.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by the Undersigned. Goods remaining uncleared after MONDAY, the 14th December, at Noon, will be subject to rent and landing charges.

All claims must be sent in to me on or before the 14th December, or they will not be recognised.

All damaged packages will be examined on MONDAY, the 14th December, at 3 P.M.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

P. NALIN, Acting Agent.

Hongkong, 7th December, 1908 [94

FROM NEW YORK.

THE H. A. L. Steamship "ARAGONIA," Captain Meyer, having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby requested to send in their Bills of Lading for countersignature by the Undersigned and to take immediate delivery of their goods from alongside.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless notice to the contrary be given before TO-DAY.

Any Cargo impeding her discharge will be landed at Consignee's risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Limited, and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.

All Claims must be presented within ten days of the steamer's arrival here after which date they cannot be recognised.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 17th inst., will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 16th inst., at 3 P.M.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

HAMBURG-AMERIKA LINIE, Hongkong Office.

Hongkong, 10th December, 1908. [1096

GUNS

DIRECT from the manufacturer at 17/6 per pair; 12 bore Double Breechloaders from 30/- each. Illustrated catalogue of latest model Rifles, Guns, Combination Guns, Sporting Rifles, &c., post free. W. TATE & REYNOLDS, George Street, Minories, London E.C. England.

Intimations.

A. S. WATSON & CO.,
LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

PERFUMERY.

A Fine Selection of the CHOICE FRENCH PERFUMES in Elegant Fancy Boxes, Caskets and Cut Glass Bottles; also ELEGANT SOAPS, TOILET WATERS, HAIR WASHES, from the following Celebrated Houses:—Atkinson, Piver, Roger and Gallet, Rigaud, Houbigant, &c.

Specially selected for our Christmas Sale by our London House.

The following are highly recommended, and are very suitable for presents:—

Ideal Perfume, Fleurs D'Amour, Bouquet des Amours, Indian Hay, 4711. Eau de Cologne, Farina's Original Genuine Eau de Cologne, Peau d'Espagne, Trefle Incarnate, Azurea, Camia, &c., &c.

YE OLDE ENGLISH LAVENDER WATER (In Elegant Bottles).

Safranor, Vera Violetta, Coeur de Jeannette, Mes Delices, Violet Merveille, Floramyl.

Hongkong, 11th December, 1908. [93

MARRIAGES.

On October 29, 1908, at Rock Ferry, CHARLES ARTHUR GRAVES, son of the late A. S. Graves, of Rock Ferry, to CLARA, daughter of Lilley Ellis, of Rock Park, Rock Ferry.

On October 28, 1908, at Eastbourne, CHARLES TALBOT, eldest son of L. B. BOWRING, C.S.I., to MARY IRENE, eldest daughter of Joseph Parker.

DEATHS.

On November 30, 1908, at Huchoufu, Kiangsu, PAUL DONALD, son of the Rev. and Mrs. M. B. Grier, aged 5 years, of diphtheria.

On December 5, 1908, at Shanghai, the Rev. Father ARNAUD, S.J., late Pastor of the parish. Deeply regretted.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1908.

RUMOURS IN ADVANCE.

Curious rumours, the origin of which is still obscure, are flitting about in connection with the attitude of the British Government with respect to the opium question in the Far East. The latest report is that in view of certain difficulties which have cropped up, the British Government is not at present inclined to press forward the measure for the complete suppression of the opium trade in the Far Eastern Colonies. Whether that is due to any doubt regarding the ability or desire of the Chinese Government to work hand in hand with India in the suppression of the trade can only be matter of conjecture. But it must always be borne in mind that the British Government only agreed to restrict the cultivation and exportation of the drug if China showed that she was in earnest in endeavouring to achieve a similar result by the best means at her command. It was only a few months ago that the Secretary of State for the Colonies intimated that the opium trade carried on in Singapore and Hongkong was to be wiped out, and before the views of the legislatures in the Crown Colonies had been ascertained on the subject a resolution to that effect had been adopted in accordance with the wishes of the anti-opium protagonists in the United Kingdom. The assumption has been from the start that China was absolutely honest in her intention to adopt repressive measures against the use of opium by her subjects, to prohibit the cultivation of the poppy on new territory and to effect a gradual decrease in the area under cultivation, so that at the end of ten years from the publication of the Imperial Edict opium should be a vanished factor in the sum total of the Empire's revenues and the craving natural to those who had been accustomed to the use of the drug should be eradicated. The Edict was issued in 1906 but so far as the ordinary observer is able to make out, the rumpus raised about office-holders who indulged in opium-smoking when the Edict was issued has practically died out, and the careful individual who is resolved to retain his office and at the same time enjoy his evening pipe has innumerable methods at his hand of outwitting the Government. Such an experienced "China hand" as Mr. A. Gorton Angier, has recorded in his latest work that: "Diligent students of Chinese matters have always found difficulty in arriving at what was the real intention of the China Government and people in regard to opium." And after referring to the fact that "edicts and fulminations against the drug in the past have achieved singularly little," he observes: "China is a nation prone to enunciating magnificent precepts that sadly fall away in practice. The Edicts show us the precepts truly enough though we have yet to seek action in entire accordance therewith. In some districts there is no doubt that the Edict is made to run, but there is much doubt about many other localities. Edicts grow more and more drastic and one of the most recent edicts that manufacturers of morphia or hypodermic appliances are, when detected, to be banished to 'a pestilential frontier of the Empire,' a suggestion that recalls the boiling oil treatment of a Gilbertian play." Mr. Angier's conclusion is: "If China by act and deed is really suppressing the growth and cultivation of opium, then it is our bounden duty to help her in the matter; measure for measure, or a little ahead, as she does. And until we have the demonstration from China herself the treaties must run effectively." It should not be forgotten that among the first acts of at least some of the Chinese provincial authorities was an attempt to constitute the sale of the drug a Government monopoly. At Nanking the first effort was made but Sir John Jordan was quick to point out that the creation of such a monopoly would be a direct contravention of the British Treaty of Nanking of 1842 and the French Treaty of Tientsin of 1858, and the consequence was that the action of the Provincial Government at Nanking was quashed by the Imperial authorities. In Canton a more astute and strategic move was made and had it not been for the sharpness and ready perception displayed by local merchants of the effect the proclamation would have on the sale of opium, and their representations to the Government and the British Consul-General at Canton, the Hongkong trade which still exists would have been reduced to a minimum. That scheme in so far as it concerned Canton having been nipped in the bud, the wits of those carrying favour with the authorities were set to work in order to discover technicalities which would vitiate the operation of the Edict. They read into the Edict a meaning totally foreign to its general import, *viz* that it was intended to apply simply to provincial centres such as Canton and presumably Kwelin, but not to prefectural districts such as Swatow, Waichow and other places which have been declared open to foreign trade. Again the merchants in Hongkong drew the attention of Consul-General Fox to this second attempt to drive a carriage and four through the express terms of the Edict, and the Viceroy has promised to make investigations. The question has not yet been settled and Hongkong merchants are possessing their souls in patience, but these things all go to show how the wind blows. Can it be argued in the face of these undoubted facts that the Chinese as a whole, the officials who regard opium as a revenue-producer, are really sincere in their desire to suppress the use of the drug? If the Edict can be so twisted and mangled that the drug may be constituted a legalised monopoly of the Government, then all the self-abnegation of the British Government, all the losses sustained by *force majeure*, which India and the Crown Colonies will be called upon to endure, will prove but misplaced generosity. It is scarcely probable, however, that these manœuvres to side-track the opium Edict of 1906 have the cognisance of the Secretary of State, or that they would be held to constitute good ground for delaying the suppression of the opium trade in British Colonies. If there is any sub-stratum of truth at all in the report that the British Government is becoming less actively interested in the somewhat remote question of opium on account of the domestic troubles which are crowding thick and fast on its consideration and demand immediate legislation. Such rumours, however, do not gain currency without some sort of reason, and London correspondents who have the *entrée* to the Lobby are not given, as a rule, to the dissemination of what will afterwards prove to have been obvious canards. We can only await the explanation which must be forthcoming shortly with the patience of hope long-deferred. On the 1st of February, the International Anti-Opium Conference opens its meetings at Shanghai, and it is satisfactory that the British Government will be represented by men who can keep a clear head and form a sane judgment when the problem is being discussed. Sir Cecil Clementi Smith is too experienced a civil servant to be influenced by the ranting platitudes of the average individual who recognises in the poppy an instrument of all the satanic world. For example it is difficult to conceive that either he or Sir Alexander Hosie could conscientiously subscribe to the petition which declares "that the opium traffic (except as used by physicians) should be put under the same international ban as piracy and slavery as a crime against civilisation." The further clause "that no revenue interests of any backward nation should be allowed to check the progress recently made through anti-opium legislation in the United States, Great Britain and China," is a piece of pure impertinence, which has, we should think, not the ghost of a chance of being adopted. One American missionary, however, has hopes of carrying a resolution to that effect, but it only serves to show how far fanaticism will carry a crusader, and to explain why reforms are so often defeated by the very vehemence of their promoters. It may be of interest to learn that the "backward nations" referred to are Portugal, Germany, Russia, Turkey and Persia, at least that is the meaning we extract from a circular issued by one of the reverend gentlemen who will represent the United States at the Conference. It is stated that it was intended at first to confine the Conference to members representing the seven nations having permanent territorial possessions in Eastern Asia *viz.* China, Japan, the United States, Great Britain, Holland, France and Italy, but, we are told, "when the commissioners named for the United States began to look into the subject, and perhaps because other nations intimated they, too, had opium to suppress or to protect, it was seen that five other nations should be invited including Portugal, from whose city of Macao, 'the Monte Carlo of the East,' located near the coast of China, comes the opium imported to Hawaii and our Pacific coast; also Germany and Russia, probably because of their 'spheres of influence' in China; and Turkey and Persia, both of which produce a little opium." We wonder what Germany would think if it discovered itself placed *dans cette galère?* and practically described as one of the "backward nations," and what would the Kaiser say if he learnt that coercive measures might be employed to restrain the greatest military nation in the world from checking the progress of anti-opium legislation? It need only be added that the sheet from which we have quoted pillories Portugal in particular, and that the main object of its publication, so far as we can see, is to persuade people all the world over to devote one cent a day towards the desirable object of giving the reverend writer a high old time in China at other folks' expense. If Great Britain adopts a half-hearted attitude, however, the anti-opium bigots may find that their hopes of direct results are likely to be sadly blighted. Perhaps this conference may do more to disillusionise the British Government regarding the effects of the opium trade in China and the pretensions of the reformers who place an implicit faith in Imperial Edicts, than all the arguments advanced by those who are supposed to have some sort of vague interest in the regulating of the existing condition.

IF THE FILIPINOS HAD A NAVY.

While all the great Powers are wrangling among themselves over the strengthening of their navies, and taunting each other with inefficiency in order to ease their nerves, the principalities and dependencies are likewise having a spell at the game of forming miniature navies on paper. Australia has definitely decided to form a navy of her own, and is prepared to spend vast sums which would be far better employed in opening up the interior and buying out absentee landlords—on the costly luxury of decking herself out with a string of gunboats. What good they are likely to do nobody seems in a position to tell exactly, but no doubt some gallant tar will be found willing to "polish up the handle of the cabin-door" and thus become the ruler of a real navee. Now it seems that the Filipinos want a navy of sorts, and unless we are misinformed the Assembly or some such body has decided to allocate four million pesos towards this laudable object. One wonders if this is not a Yankee joke of sorts? What do the Filipinos, or if it comes to that the Insular Government, require with a handful of mechanical contrivances which will be out of date and only worth their value as scrap iron before their original cost has been defrayed? Are they afraid, also, that the Japanese are going to pounce upon some of the islands which make up the straggling archipelago? If not, what is the use of a navy for the Philippines? There is something to be said for Australia, because the people there seem to be so obsessed by the vision of maniacal Japanese swooping down on the barren coast, where de Rougemont laid the plot of his story, that they are hardly able to sleep at night. No matter that Australia has the biggest coast-line to protect of any country in the world, the fact that there were a few torpedo-boats at the service of the Government might help to calm those fears. But what about the Philippines where it is mostly coast-line, inhabited by aborigines? Every day the Manila papers give accounts of the fighting that is still in full swing throughout the islands. No one pretends, indeed, that the country is completely pacified, far less under control. Massacres and murders and treacherous attacks on individuals as well as army stragglers are as common to-day as they were ten years ago; only the venue has been shifted. In many parts of the islands, the Insular Government is openly flouted and ridiculed. Yet because a few red-hot firebrands have been foolishly given a modicum of power and the command of a certain amount of money, the Philippines must, forsooth, have a navy, as if they were fully provided for in every other respect. We are assuming, of course, that this story of the four million pesos which is to be devoted towards the establishment of a few water-wagons is not absolutely a gigantic piece of American bluff. The veriest child in administrative matters could point out directions to which four millions might very profitably be directed. It is only an indication, however, of what would happen were the Philippines to be handed over to the Filipinos. Cuba is lively enough as a centre of brain storms, but the Philippines would become a second Hayti and we have no desire to have another Hayti adjacent to Hongkong. We have quite enough troubles of our own, and our time is fully occupied with keeping an eye on Canton and another on ourselves. If the money is intended for the maintenance of a regular revenue service, there might be little objection to the proposal, although four millions seem an extraordinary sum for such a small purpose. Of course, when the American Government declares that foreign shipping shall be taboo in the Philippine trade it may be necessary to have a considerable number of coast guard vessels on scouting duty; and if the Chinese should attempt the smuggling of opium or other prohibited articles on a large scale the revenue authorities would be compelled to adopt the most stringent measures to outwit the contrabandists. But there is nothing at present to show that such precautions are necessary. Rather, we should commiserate the luckless wights who had thrown in their lot with the smuggling fraternity and bid them an eternal farewell if they started on a tramp across the hills. Probably all that these political protagonists want is a saucy little gunboat or two with an ample quarterdeck where their lady friends may sip their afternoon tea. For, "once aboard the lugger and the lady's mine" still holds good. China, as everybody knows, has hopes of a navy too, and if the Filipinos are to get their toy outfit, it should not be impossible to arrange a small scrap between the two, for a purse mutually agreed on and whatever side-bets can be placed. It would be far more diverting than the "Morocco Bound" antics of Abdul Aziz and Muley Hafid and it wouldn't be half so dangerous for the combatants. There are surely stage managers enough to arrange matters satisfactorily, and it is a well-known fact that the Far East to a man is thirsting for a new sensation. We should, however, point out that a navy is hardly to be compared with an Irishman's pig, it neither pays the rent for keeps itself. Even a Filipino navy could not put in its spare time foraging for "chow," and if the engineers were Moros there might be difficulties experienced through the disappearance of engine-grease. To build even six destroyers, nine submarines and two depot or parent ships—which is the Australian idea—would cost over twelve million pesos so that we have a fair idea what a third of that sum would provide. The annual charge for these vessels on the Australian plan would be three and a half million pesos, or in the case of the Philippines about a million. Whether the result would be worth it is another thing. But if the Filipinos want their navy and they have the money to pay for it by all means let them propitiate Santa Claus and perhaps they may get it.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE P. and O. s.s. *Sunda*, which left London on 7th ult., took the following specie:—For Singapore, coin silver £82,688.

THE Preacher at the morning service at St. Peter's Church on Sunday next will be the Right Reverend the Bishop of the Diocese.

A BAZAAR, in aid of the funds of the Sisters of Charity, will be held at Macao in February next, on the occasion of the unveiling of the memorial of the Vasco da Gama tri-centenary.

STEALING two towels and a pillow case from 6, East Avenue, Kowloon, yesterday, was the charge preferred against two coolies—Chan, Chung and Tsang Tam—in the Police Court, to-day. The first defendant alone was found guilty and he received a sentence of three months' hard labour. The other man was discharged.

THE Admiralty announce the appointment of Engineer-Commander W.W. Hardwick to the *Tamar*, additional, for charge of machinery of the *Wivern* and for Fleet duties to date 16th ult., also of C.H. Carroll, to the *Clio*, reappointed as Assistant Paymaster in Charge, and as Acting Interpreter in French, on recommissioning, to date Sept. 24.

DROPPED WITH THE LOOT.

WHAT HAPPENED TO A COOLIE AT WANCHAI.

It happened at Wanchai in the early hours of this morning when those respectable citizens were abed, dreaming, perhaps, of its water supply. As the clocks were chiming three, a coolie emerged from a side lane, walked quickly up Queen's Road East, and came to a halt outside house No. 84. There was not a policeman in sight, and taking it for granted that the coast was clear, the coolie climbed up the waterspout by means of which he succeeded in getting to the first floor verandah. From there he manœuvred himself into the front room, thence to an adjoining cubicle, where he proceeded to fulfil his mission. He had collected a quantity of clothing, which he carefully made into a bundle, and was about to leave the house when one of the inmates was awakened by hearing a noise, which was caused by the coolie kicking over a stool, which cannoned off a partition to the floor. The excitement followed. Quietly creeping into the room the master of the house discovered the intruder in the act of leaving the now "hot bed." He pursued him around the room for several minutes, and the coolie, getting tired of the sport, ran to the window and hurled the bundle below. He was making his way out, by the same window to reach the waterspout, when he lost his footing and dropped to the roadway, a drop of about twenty feet. When the occupier of the house reached the street the coolie was lying in the gutter, breathing hard. A policeman was summoned and the coolie was removed to hospital, suffering, it is believed, from a dislocated jaw and a broken wrist. The bundle of clothing was found in the middle of the road and detained by the police.

DISCHARGING COAL.

QUESTION OF A WAIVER RAISED.

An interesting point of law was raised by Mr. F. Paget Hett (for the defence) in the case which was brought up on remand at the Supreme Court, yesterday afternoon, in which Lau Pui Wong, a stevedore, of 18, Albany Street, is suing Messrs. Wallem and Company, as agents for the steamer *Christian Dors*, to recover $1,278.04, for work done. The plaintiff waived the sum $278.04 so as to bring the matter within the Summary Jurisdiction Court. The claim was for discharging the *Christian Dors* of a cargo of coal.

When the case first came up for trial, it will be remembered that the defendants' compradore had consented to pay $1,000 and no more for the work done. This it was stated, was refused by the plaintiff. The point raised by Mr. Hett was that as the plaintiff had found it necessary to waive a portion of his claim ($278.04) in order to bring the matter in the Summary Court, and as the defendants were willing to pay $1,000, the amount now claimed, the plaintiff could not go back on his waiver, and was not entitled to sue for the balance.

Evidence was called to prove the contract rates for discharging coal on board ships, and the case was further adjourned.

CHAN UN, a cook, who lived in the Yan Wo boarding-house, was convicted in the Police Court, to-day, and sentenced to six weeks' hard labour for robbing an A.B. from the *King Alfred* of $6 in cash.

LIEUT. Godfrey B. J. Conyon has been appointed to the cruiser *Kent* on the China Station. This officer first donned the blue in September, 1899, was promoted midshipman in the following December, sub-lieutenant in 1903, and full lieutenant in June, 1905. He was latterly serving on the battleship *London*, flagship of Rear-Admiral F. J. Foley, Rear-Admiral of the Channel Fleet.

NEWS has been received by telegram from Lisbon that the gunboat *Patria* which was *en route* to Macao to relieve the *Rio Lima* has had to put back to Lisbon, as the *Patria* sprung a leak in a heavy gale which she encountered on her way out. The cruiser *Donna Amelia* of the size of the *Adamastor*, well-known in these waters, left Portugal for China on the 27th ult.

AN unemployed coolie, with, apparently, a love for stationery, made an appearance in the Police Court, to-day, to answer a charge of stealing an account book, a number of postage stamps, three catalogues, a bill of lading, and a pocket book. The complainant was M. Aoki, a Japanese curios dealer, of 30, Elgin Road, Kowloon. Accused pleaded not guilty to the allegation, and the case was postponed.

A MEMBER of the crew of the steamship *China* very nearly lost his life in the harbour yesterday. The sampan which was bringing him ashore was about twenty feet away from the wharf, when the sailor started to leave the well. When he reached the deck the sampan gave a sudden list, throwing the man into the water. The boat people in the vicinity saw that the European was in difficulties and went to his rescue, fishing him out of the water, and but for the uncomfortable ducking there was nothing wrong with the mariner.

OUR Hongkong readers will note with pleasure the bestowal of the order of St. Michael and St. George on Sir Matthew Nathan, the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Natal. Sir Matthew has frequently had occasion to criticise the interfering policy of the British Government in the affairs of a self-governing State of the Empire, more especially in reference to the Dinizulu trial. He has had considerable experience of oversea government, having administered the Governments of Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast and Hongkong in the seven years preceding his present appointment.—*L. & C. Express.*

A SOLDIER'S DEATH.

INQUIRY CONCLUDED.

The Coroner's inquiry into the death of Lance-Corporal T. E. Smith, belonging to the Buffs, who committed suicide on the night of the 27th November, by cutting his throat with a razor, was held at the Magistracy, as we stated in our last issue. Mr. J. H. Kemp presided as Coroner. The jurors were:—Messrs. A. Sinclair, W. Hardwick and L. W. Longstein.

Pte. Marsh stated that on the night of the 27th November, deceased asked him to lend him his cap sometime before nine o'clock. The last words he heard deceased say were: "Tell Cooper to wait; there's a sheet of foolscap on my table." Witness was in bed at the time. He had known deceased for five years, during which time, the deceased was on the best of terms with his comrades. He could not say what led deceased to take his life, and in answer to the Coroner's question, said that no one had any grudge against the deceased.

Lance-corporal Barker stated that he lived in the same room as the deceased. At about nine o'clock, he saw deceased go out. Pte. Marsh was sitting in bed. Witness turned in at ten o'clock. He did not hear deceased asking for the cap. He could not say why deceased committed suicide. Deceased did not have any quarrel with anyone in the Regiment.

Pte. Dyer gave corroborative evidence and said that deceased was in the habit of telling witness about his private affairs. Deceased did not mention that he was troubled with any worries. Deceased did not complain of over-work, although he had to do a good deal of work.

Pte. Tozar stated that deceased asked for the messing to be fixed up by the drum-major, as deceased was in charge of the groceries. Subsequently, witness collected deceased's kit.

The Coroner found that death was due to haemorrhage caused through a wound in the throat. He said that the evidence showed no reason why deceased should have committed suicide, but everything pointed to suicide. It was possible that deceased had a quarrel without the Regiment knowing it. He directed the jury to find a verdict of suicide while of unsound mind and intimated that they might add a rider attaching suspicion to anyone.

The jury returned a unanimous verdict that death was due to haemorrhage. There was nothing in the evidence to show that deceased had a quarrel with anyone.

CHINESE WOMAN DROWNED.

SAD FATALITY AT KOWLOON CITY.

A sad accident, resulting in the death of a Chinese woman, took place at Kowloon City on Wednesday morning.

Fu Sam Mui, thirty-eight years of age, was a pig wash carrier residing in the village. Early in the morning she went out to attend to her ordinary duties—one of which was to carry away what food for the pigs steam launches carried. It was raining at the time the woman left her house. As she was walking along the pier, outside the Kowloon City Police Station, a strong wind caught her and sent her into the sea. The woman was carrying two empty buckets, slung over a bamboo pole, on her shoulder. Naturally, the woman clung to one of the buckets, to save her life, but on this becoming filled it took her below the surface. The accident was seen by the crew of a launch, which was in the vicinity, and steps were taken to rescue the unfortunate woman, but in vain. Her corpse was found later.

A JUNK MASTER'S GAME.

TIMBER MERCHANT ACCUSED OF UNLAWFUL POSSESSION.

Shum Iu Nam, a timber merchant, residing at 51, Station Street North, Yau-ma-ti, and carrying on business at Cheung-chau, was charged in the Police Court, this morning, at the instance of Sergeant Angus, with being in unlawful possession of $900 worth of pine wood, which is suspected to have been stolen.

About a fortnight ago, a cargo-boat containing about $1,000 worth of pine wood, belonging to Chan Ka U, another timber merchant, of 90, Connaught Road West, was dispatched from Canton to Macao where the wood was consigned. According to the report the cargo-boat master instead of obeying his order came to Hongkong where he disposed of the cargo, and disappeared. It was alleged that part of the wood was sold to the defendant, in whose possession were found about 400 logs.

The case was adjourned.

A CLEVER THIEF.

YOKI'S TRICK TO ROB HIS MASTER.

Inspector Cameron, of Shau-ki-wan Police Station, secured the arrest last night of a man named Wan Chun on a charge of stealing seven bags of cinnamon, which were valued at $110.25. Two other men—a fishmonger and a baker—were also apprehended for, as it is alleged, receiving stolen goods.

Wan Chun, up to yesterday, was a coolie employed in a grocer's shop at 8, Praya, Shau-ki-wan, and it would appear that about eight o'clock last night, after the shop was closed, he invited the other *kohi* to go to a mutual friend's house for a chat. This they did. They remained there for a while, and Wan suddenly remembered that he had "some business to look after." Leaving his *kohi* in the house, he returned to the shop—the master was absent at the time—and removed the cinnamon, taking it to a houseboat in the bay, and, as it is stated, selling it to the baker and the fishmonger.

Wan was found guilty of the theft, and he was sentenced to six months' imprisonment. The alleged "receivers" were remanded.

Telegrams.

"HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" SERVICE.

LEGATION GUARDS.

WITHDRAWAL BY JAPANESE.

[*By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."*]

Peking, 10th December.

The Japanese Legation Guards will be gradually reduced this month until January when the withdrawal of the troops will be completed.

THE ROYAL FAMILY.

EDUCATION IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

[*By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."*]

Peking, 10th December.

The Prince Regent, feeling concern for the members of the Royal family who have not attained a certain standard of learning, has decided to send most of them to foreign countries to be educated.

On the completion of their education they will be appointed to various offices.

SHANGHAI LIBEL ACTION.

"N. C. D. NEWS" MULCTED IN DAMAGES.

[*From Our Own Correspondent.*]

Shanghai, 10th December, 6.30 p.m.

Mr. E. T. Bethell, formerly editor, *Korea Daily News*, has been awarded $3,000 damages in the action for alleged libel against the *North China Daily News*.

[*Reuter's.*]

Austria and Turkey.

LONDON, 9th December.

The Austrian Ambassador, M. von Pallavicini, after a conference with the Grand Vizier, has intimated that immediately the boycott ceased Austria would make proposals for a settlement of the Bosnia-Herzegovina question.

The Grand Vizier says that the boycott will cease immediately Austria has submitted satisfactory proposals.

Later.

The Scottish Land Bill Withdrawn.

Mr. Asquith has announced that the Scottish Land Values Bill has been withdrawn owing to the Lords' amendments.

This is the second Scottish Land Bill which has been killed by the same cause during the present session.

The Annexation of the Congo.

Mr. Mackinnon Wood, in reply to questions in the House of Commons, said that Great Britain had not yet recognised the annexation of the Congo.

Belgium had undertaken to abide by the Congo's obligations under the Berlin Act, including the freedom of international trade.

UNSALEABLE MILK.

JUDGMENT FOR DEFENDANTS.

This morning, in the Supreme Court, Mr. Justice Gompertz gave his reserved decision in the case in which the Tung Hing Sing firm sued the Foo Cheong *kong* to recover the sum of $110.68, alleged to be due for goods (cases of milk) sold and delivered.

It will be remembered that the defendant firm obtained an order, by a broker, for ten cases of milk. In due course the cases were sent to the defendants' premises, where they were duly inspected and taken delivery of. The defendants subsequently intimated that they refused to take fourteen tins, and sent them back. They then refused to accept other tins to replace what they had refused, and take the ten cases. It was stated by the managing partner of the defendant firm that when he made the purchase he stipulated that it should be good, clean, white milk that should be supplied. When the cases were inspected he found fourteen of the tins dented and leaking. He opened one tin and showed the contents to plaintiffs' *coli*. The milk was thick and yellow, and unsaleable. He said then: "We certainly cannot take this milk; take it all away." The *coli* said he would change the tins, but the defendant said he need not bother as he did not want any of the goods, and, later on, declined to sign a receipt.

Judgment was given for the defendant firm with costs.

Mr. Kong Sing appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Holborrow (from Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) was for the defendant.

THE Chinese wives of two British engine-drivers employed on the Kowloon railway, who arrived at Victoria, B. C., by the steamer *Empress of China*, are being detained for the poll-tax of $500. The husbands are appealing to Ottawa.

CANTON DAY BY DAY.

THE DELIMITATION OF MACAO.

[*From Our Own Correspondent.*]

Canton, 10th December.

It has been reported from time to time that the Chinese have been contemplating the lodgement of protest against the Portuguese at Macao over the boundary line question and the alleged interference by the Portuguese in the territorial waters, especially after the *Tatsu Maru* incident. A Peking despatch states that the Waiwupu will shortly communicate with the Portuguese Minister at Peking and open negotiations on the subject.

THE "FATSHAN" INCIDENT.

At 11 o'clock this morning H E Viceroy Chang received the British Consul at Canton. The purport of this interview is probably in connection with the *Fatshan* incident. Though the members of the Self-Government Society have convened several meetings since the unfortunate occurrence to deliberate on matters concerning the situation with a view to incite public feeling, so far no definite steps are said to have been taken. However, the native people in this city are eagerly looking forward to a satisfactory settlement of the incident.

LIKIN COLLECTION.

The collection of Likin dues for the first ten days of this moon as reported by the Likin officials amounted to 47,304.6.9.8 taels.

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

The Bureau of Foreign Affairs at Canton will be removed to the Yamen of the Commissioner of Foreign Affairs, when the latter official is appointed, instead of being attached to the Viceroy's yamen as hitherto.

A NEW CONCERN.

A fire insurance company has been floated here under the leadership of H.E. Cheung Pat Sze with a capital of $300,000, to be raised by subscriptions of $10 a share payable in two instalments. The concern will be styled "The Kwangtung Fire Insurance Company, Limited," and its Head Office will be opened in Kung Yat Moon Street. Subscriptions will be collected from the 22nd day of this moon and will be closed on the 25th day next.

THE FLOODS.

The Viceroy of Fukien province has wired to the Canton Authorities asking for pecuniary help for the relief of the sufferers by the recent floods.

MASTER AND SERVANT.

A FEW CIGARETTES CAUSE TROUBLE.

Forty-five cents' worth of cigarettes caused some trouble in Bertolone's Café a few days ago. The trouble came to an end in the Supreme Court, this forenoon, when one of the "boys" brought an action against the proprietor—G. Bertolone—to recover his wages, which amounted to about $15.

The bother arose over a customer refusing to pay for a quantity of cigarettes which he had received from the "boy." Mr. Bertolone stated that after the cigarettes had been given to the "boy" the latter returned and said that the gentleman had left without paying for them. The "boy" was told that his wages would be "docked" and he left the premises there and then, although it was his time for night duty. To quote Mr. Bertolone: "He did not come back that day. He did not come back the next. But on the third day he came into the shop, with a cigarette in his mouth, and in a very impertinent way, asked for his salary. I told him to come back in the afternoon I wanted to summon him, but I could not get his address. And the next thing I got the summons."

Mr. Justice Gompertz asked whether the matter could not be settled.

Mr. Bertolone said that the matter of a few dollars was nothing to him, but he did not see why he should pay up.

Mr. Justice Gompertz—Do you want me to hear the case?

Mr. Bertolone—I leave it to the Court to decide whether I should pay or not.

The "boy," on being called to the witness-box, stated that one night last week a "gentleman" called at the Café, and ordered some cigarettes. He attended to the customer, provided him with what he wanted, and waited for payment after presenting the chit. The customer lighted one of the cigarettes and after a while complained that the "smokes" were no good, and got up and left the house, taking with him the cigarettes and the chit. The "boy" reported the matter to his master, who said that his pay would be cut. He objected.

Mr. Justice Gompertz—Are the "boys" responsible for money they receive from customers?

Mr Bertolone—Yes.

The case was adjourned to allow the parties to come to a settlement.

GOLF.

The monthly competition for the Captain's Cup was held at Happy Valley between December 5th and December 7th. The following cards were returned:—

A. N Paxton*	86—16=70
G. N. Orme	90—18=72
Major Macdonald	85—10=75
M. H. Penfold	92—17=75
W. S. Allen	94—18=76
E. J. Grist	82—4=78
D. W. Tratman	96—18=78
U. A. Baiss	94—14=80
H. C. R. Boucher	89—9=80
F. B. Deacon	89—9=80
C. T. Beath	87—6=81
Major G. D. Close	87—5=82
H. G. Tomlinson	92—9=83
C. H. Gale	98—14=84

31 entries.

POOL.

Major Macdonald†	85—10=75
H. C. R. Boucher	87—9=78
M. A. Murray	85—5=80
Major G. D. Close	87—5=82
H. G. Tomlinson	92—9=83
C. H. Gale	98—14=84

24 entries.

*Winner of Captain's Cup.
†Winner of Pool.

A NEW ICE FACTORY.

ESTABLISHED AT MACAO.

An ice factory, registered as the Him Sao Ice Factory, has just been started at Macao. The buildings have been completed and machinery installed. The works are situated on the water front in the district of Barra. The buildings cover an area some 40 metres long by 15 metres wide. All the machinery is of the Summer Puplet make and has been imported from Glasgow. The capital for the concern has been entirely supplied by Chinese who also manage and work the factory, no foreign engineers or manager having been engaged. The ice-producing capacity of the factory is one of eight tons for a working day of twelve hours. We understand that delivery of the entire output has been contracted for in Macao, Canton and Fatshan. A Hongkong Chinaman is also interested in the new undertaking in the Portuguese Colony. The Him Sao makes the second ice factory in operation at Macao; there is also a very small factory which produces two tons of ice a day for local consumption only.

JAPAN SUGAR REFINING COMPANY.

EXCITED MEETING.

The general meeting of the Japan Sugar Refining Company held at the Nihombashi Club, Tokyo, on Thursday, was characterised by some lively proceedings, reports the *Japan Chronicle* of 1st inst. It was known that the means taken by the President of the Company, Mr. Sakawa, to carry at the recent extraordinary meeting the proposal to purchase the Nagoya Sugar Refining Company had offended a section of the shareholders, and that there was some opposition to the proposed appointment of new directors to represent the interests of the Mitsu Bishi. It was therefore expected that some excitement would be shown, and a number of police officers were secured to maintain order. The shareholders were not mollified by the fact that the meeting was delayed by about two hours, while the directors and larger shareholders were in conference.

Introducing the report and accounts for the last half-year, Mr. Sakawa, the President, said that the demand for sugar had declined during the period because of a high taxation and the general trade depression, especially in China, but the assiduous efforts made by the company to push sales during the season, the disposal at a high profit of stocks of sugar produced before the increase of the excise, and the successful operation of the Trust for the sale of sugar formed among the sugar-refining companies, enabled the company to distribute a good dividend. When the report and accounts were put to the meeting, several members sought an explanation regarding the item "stocks held or borrowed by the company," valued at ¥4,906,000, appearing in the balance-sheet. Mr. Isomura, managing director, refused to give a full explanation at the public meeting. Thereupon the shareholders became greatly excited. On the advice of Baron Shibusawa, the managing director eventually gave some information concerning the nature of the stocks, and it was then discovered that the scrip in question included debentures and shares of the company itself. This only increased the excitement of the shareholders, who continued to ply the managing director with many inconvenient questions. A motion was then made to appoint a committee to investigate the matter, whereupon Baron Shibusawa intervened and said that the appointment of a committee to investigate the position of a company was generally made when the board of directors has entirely lost the confidence of the shareholders and the company was in a critical position. He thought that while the board of directors was not entirely free from error and the position of the company was not wholly satisfactory, yet the situation was not so critical as to warrant the appointment of a committee as proposed. Baron Shibusawa recommended that the matter should be considered with cool heads, for the sake of the company as well as the shareholders and that in the election of new auditors in place of those retiring, which was to be proceeded with, they should vote for gentlemen in whom they had confidence, and thus leave the attainment of their object in trustworthy hands.

In reply it was urged that as everything had already been arranged between the board of directors and the leading shareholders, the new auditors having also been decided on; the suggestion made was merely a way of evading the issue. The minority opposed to the board would not listen to Baron Shibusawa's advice, but tumultuously insisted on the appointment of a committee, thus intensifying the excitement and disorder. It was eventually decided to put the motion to a ballot, when it was lost. The motion was supported by fourteen members, representing only 4,090 shares out of the 125,135 shares represented.

The report and accounts were then approved, and the meeting passed on to the election of directors and auditors in place of those retiring. Baron Shibusawa, with the consent of the meeting, appointed Mr. Esaki and two other shareholders to nominate the candidates Mr. Tsunekawa Shinsuke was nominated a director, and the auditors chosen were Messrs. Fujimoto Seibei (re-elected), Mayeda Kamenosuke, Urin Shin, Imai Kibachi, and Ushioda Yoshizo (new men), the number of auditors being increased from three or five. We understand that Mr. Urin represents the interests of the Mitsu Bishi and Mr. Ushioda those of the Mitsui.

The statement regarding the disposal of the profit for the period adopted by the meeting was as follows:—

Profit	¥805,627
Bonuses to officials and staff	56,500
Balance	¥749,127
Surplus brought over	76,107
Total	¥825,234
Placed to the legal reserve	¥ 50,000
Placed to the special reserve (including ¥150,000 for the fund for the redemption of debentures)	200,000
Distributed among shareholders (15 per cent. per annum)	562,500
Carried forward	12,734
Total	¥825,234

COMMERCIAL.

WEEKLY SHARE REPORT.

Reviewing the share business for the week, Messrs. E. S. Kadoorie & Co. write this afternoon:—

Business has continued slack during the week, the only activity displayed being in Raubs.

Banks.—Further sales of Hongkong and Shanghai Banks have taken place at $850 at which rate they are obtainable at the close. The London quotation is unchanged at £82.

Marine Insurances.—Cantons have been in fair demand, and have found buyers at $195 and $197½. Unions continue to advance and buyers prevail at $825, without bringing out shares. Yangtszes have receded slightly to $165, but there are buyers at the rate. North Chinas are quoted at Tls. 102½.

Fire Insurances.—Hongkong Fires are still offering at $330. China Fires have been sold at $104, and are in further request at $105.

Shipping.—Stocks under this heading have not attracted attention, and there are no changes to report, with the exception of Shell Transports which are quoted at 48s., a slight advance on last week's quotation.

Refineries.—China Sugars remain steady at $112½. Perak Sugars are quoted at Tls. 82½ in the north.

Mining.—Raubs have been in general demand during the week, which quickly sent them up to $9½, at which rate they are now offering. They have been the medium of a fair business at rates between $9¼ and $9½. Chinese Engineerings have risen to Tls. 16½ and are in demand.

Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Hongkong and Kowloon Wharfs are quiet at $44. Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are weak at $91. Shanghai Docks have not maintained their position, and re-acted to Tls. 75 closing with sellers. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharfs have declined to Tls. 137½ at which rate they are in demand in the North.

Lands, Hotels and Buildings.—Humphreys Estates have changed hands at $93 and more can be had at this rate. Kowloon Lands have advanced to $35. Central Stores have improved to $14 with buyers. Hongkong Hotels can be placed at $80. Shanghai Lands have buyers at Tls. 117.

Cotton Mills.—Hongkong Cottons are offering at Tls. 10. Internationals have improved to Tls. 60, and Soy Chees to Tls. 250. Lau Kung Mows have sellers at Tls. 72½. Ewos have further improved and sales have been effected at Tls. 71.

Miscellaneous.—There are no changes in local stocks under this heading. Sumatras have improved to Tls. 125. Langkats have receded to Tls. 870.

Exchange.—The Banks' selling rate on London is 1/8 5/16 on demand. The T/T rate on Shanghai is 75¼.

Dividends Payable.—Ewo Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co. Tls. 5 payable on 15th December. Langkats fourth interim of Tls. 10 and bonus of Tls. 10=Tls. 20 on 15th December.

YARN MARKET.

In their report dated 11th instant, Messrs. Phirozsha B. Petit & Co. write:—

Our last circular was dated the 27th ult.

The fortnight under review is featureless. Early during the interval since our last report exchange suffered a further set-back with a consequent advance in price of selected threads of from $1 to $2 per bale, to which the only business transpired has been confined. While market has remained firm since with the recovery in exchange there is no appreciable changes in quotations worthy of mention.

Buyers hold back and hesitate to approach importers with higher offers. The depletion of stock in first hands proceeds apace and supplies the buoyancy against lower prices. As usual only selected threads have changed hands and all other spinnings are more or less neglected at the moment.

No. 20s.—Only a few selected threads found buyers at an advance of $1 to $2 per bale.

No. 16s.—Nothing doing.

No. 12s.—Only one thread changed hands at an advance of $2 per bale.

No. 10s.—Selected threads fetched $1 to $2 better.

Nos. 8s. and 6s.—No business reported.

The Market closes steady.

Sales:—1,000 bales of No. 10s., 200 bales of No. 12s., and 850 bales of No. 20s.; in all about 2,050 bales.

Arrivals:—Per steamers *Lightning* and *G. Apcar* (from Calcutta), and *Takasaki Maru* and *Ischi's* (from Bombay), of about 4,700 bales.

Unsold Stock:—About 9,000 bales.

Uncleared Stock:—About 15,000 bales.

Exchange:—We quote to-day as follows:—

India	T. T.	at Rs. 127	per cent.
"	Demand	" " 127½	"
London	T. T.	" Sh. 1.8¼d.	=$
"	Demand	" " 1.8 5/16d.	=$
Shanghai		" Tls. 75¼	=$100.
Silver		" 22¾d.	per oz.

CRICKET.

There will be a return match between the Lusitano Recreation Club and Moslem Recreation Club on Sunday, the 13th inst., at 2.0 p.m. sharp, at the latter Club's ground. The following represent the L. R. C.:—A. J. C. V. Ribeiro, P. da Rosa, F. X. Britto, C. Lopes, L. G. Cordeiro, I. P. Corveth, F. H. Hyndman, P. A. L. Yvanovich, A. V. Barros, T. Pereira, and A. G. Britto.

LEAGUE TABLE.

The following is the League table up to date:—

Club.	P.	W.	L.	D.	P.	Percentage.
Civil Service	4	4	0	0	4	100%
H. K. C. C. "B"	4	4	0	0	4	100%
H. K. C. C. "A"	4	2	1	1	1	33.33%
Telegraphs	3	1	1	1	0	
Craigengower	7	2	2	3	0	
H. K. Police	4	1	3	0	—2	— 50%
Royal Engineers	5	1	4	0	—3	— 60%
Kowloon	4	1	3	0	—2	— 50%
R. G. A.	3	0	2	1	—2	—100%

N.B.—A win counts 1 point.
A loss " —1 "
A draw " 0 "

To-day's Advertisements.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by PUBLIC AUCTION, FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONCERNED, TO-MORROW (SATURDAY), the 12th December, 1908, at 2.30 P.M., at their Sales Rooms No. 8, Des Vœux Road, corner of Ice House Street, ONE NEW POLYPHONE, with 52 RECORDS.

TERMS:—As usual.

HUGHES & HOUGH, Auctioneers.

Hongkong, 11th December, 1908. [1063

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by PUBLIC AUCTION, FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONCERNED, ON MONDAY, the 14th December, 1908, at 11 A.M., at their Sales Rooms, No. 8, Des Vœux Road, corner of Ice House Street, 70,000 EGYPTIAN CIGARETTES, 5 Bales GREY SHIRTINGS, AND 1 Case OATMEAL.

TERMS:—As usual.

HUGHES & HOUGH, Auctioneers.

Hongkong, 11th December, 1908. [1064

FOR SHANGHAI.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamship "DELTA," Captain R. W. H. Snow, will leave for SHANGHAI, TO-MORROW, the 12th December, at Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to E. A. HEWETT, Superintendent.

Hongkong, 11th December, 1908. [7

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW.

THE Company's Steamship "HAIMUN," Captain Evans, will be despatched for the above Port, on SUNDAY, the 13th instant, at 10 o'clock A.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co., General Managers.

Hongkong, 11th December, 1908. [1065

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamer "DELTA," FROM BOMBAY, COLOMBO AND STRAITS.

Consignees of Cargo by the above-named vessel are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed and placed *at their risk* in the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company's Godowns at Kowloon, where each consignment will be sorted out mark by mark, and delivery can be obtained as soon as the Goods are landed.

This vessel brings on Cargo:—
From London, &c., *ex* S.S. *India*,
From Australia, *ex* S.S. *China*,
From Calcutta, *ex* S.S. *Sardinia*,
From Persian Gulf, *ex* B.I.S.N. and B. & P. S. N. Co.'s Steamers.

Optional Goods will be landed here unless instructions are given to the contrary before 6 hours.

Goods not cleared by the 17th Instant, at 4 P.M., will be subject to rent.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by me in any case whatever.

Damaged Packages must be left in the Godowns for examination by the Consignee and the Company's representative at an appointed hour.

All Claims must be presented within ten days of the steamer's arrival here after which due they cannot be recognised.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns.

E. A. HEWETT, Superintendent.

Hongkong, 11th December, 1908. 17

THE YARN DISPUTE.

JUDGMENT RESERVED.

There was the usual gathering of merchants and interested parties present in the Supreme Court, this forenoon, when the yarn case—in which Messrs. S. J. David and Company are suing their compradore (Mr. Chan Ut Chiu) to recover over six lakhs of dollars for certain losses they had sustained in certain dealings in yarn, and the counter-claim in which the compradore is seeking to recover his security ($55,000)—was resumed before the Chief Justice.

Mr. Pollock continued his argument in the same strain as was reported in our last issue, to the effect that the compradore was liable for all losses the plaintiff firm had incurred in their dealings with Chinese yarn buyers. The address was concluded shortly before one o'clock.

His Lordship reserved his decision.

THE WEATHER.

The following report is from Mr. F. G. Figg, Director of the Hongkong Observatory:—

On the 11th at 11.55 a.—The barometer has fallen over China and Japan.

A depression appears to exist over the N.E part of the Sea of Japan.

Areas of high pressure are lying to the S.E. of Japan and over the Upper Yangtze.

Gradients have decreased, and moderate to fresh monsoon may be expected in the Formosa Channel and the N. part of the China Sea.

Hongkong Rainfall for the 24 hours ending 10 a.m. to-day, 0.03 inches.

FORECAST.

1.—Hongkong and Neighbourhood, N. winds, moderate; fair.

2.—Formosa Channel, N.E winds, moderate or fresh.

3.—South coast of China between Hongkong and Lamocks, same as No. 1.

4.—South coast of China between Hongkong and Hainan, same as No. 1.

To-day's Advertisement.

GRAND EXHIBITION OF OIL-PAINTINGS (By Celebrated French Artists), to be held at the CITY HALL (St. Andrew's), on the 18th and 19th DECEMBER, 1908.

Admission.....50 cents.

Proceeds to be divided between the Hongkong Benevolent Society and the Tung Wah Hospital.

Hongkong, 11th December, 1908 1066

Auctions.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by PUBLIC AUCTION, FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONCERNED, TO-MORROW, the 12th December, 1908, at 2.30 P.M., at their Sales Rooms, No. 8, Des Vœux Road, corner of Ice House Street, SUNDRY VALUABLE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Comprising:—

SIDEBOARD and WARDROBES with BEVELLED GLASS, SILK TAPESTRY-COVERED DRAWING ROOM SUITE, Single and Double IRON BEDSTEADS and BEDDING, GLASS, CROCKERY and E.P. WARE, OVERMANTELS with BEVELLED GLASS, IRON FENDERS, &c.

Catalogues will be issued.

TERMS:—As usual.

HUGHES & HOUGH, Auctioneers.

Hongkong, 11th December, 1908. [1057

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by PUBLIC AUCTION, FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONCERNED, ON WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY, the 16th, 17th and 18th December, 1908, commencing each day at 2.30 P.M., at their Sales Rooms, No. 8, Des Vœux Road, corner of Ice House Street, A MAGNIFICENT COLLECTION OF JAPANESE SILK-EMBROIDERIES, BROCADES and ANTIQUE and MODERN JAPANESE CURIOS.

(Particulars will be published later).

Catalogues will be issued.

TERMS:—As usual.

HUGHES & HOUGH, Auctioneers.

Hongkong, 7th December, 1908. [1056

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by PUBLIC AUCTION, ON MONDAY and TUESDAY, the 21st and 22nd December, 1908, at 10 A.M., at H.M. Naval Establishments, SUNDRY OLD and SURPLUS NAVAL and VICTUALLING STORES, Comprising:—

OLD and SURPLUS NAVAL STORES:—Iron Blocks, Hoses, Lamps and Lanterns, Tools, Old Iron and Metal, Electric Cables, Old Boiler, Steam Hammer, Coal Sacks, Canvas Rags, Old India-Rubber Old Leathers, Carpets, Mattings, Old Boats, Furniture, &c.

OLD and SURPLUS VICTUALLING STORES:—Provisions, Seamen's Clothing, Blankets, Officer's Mess Traps, (A quantity of Electro-plated Articles), Implements, Seamen's Mess Utensils, Oak Staves, &c.

Catalogues will be issued.

TERMS OF SALE:—As Customary.

HUGHES & HOUGH, Government Auctioneers.

Hongkong, 1st December, 1908 [1036

Intimations.

BAZAAR IN AID OF THE POOR CHINESE ORPHANS OF THE ASILE DE LA SAINTE ENFANCE.

UNDER the Distinguished Patronage of His Excellency Sir FREDERICK LUGARD, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

The French Sisters have the honour to announce that their ANNUAL BAZAAR will be held at the City Hall, on MONDAY, the 14th inst., at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

An inspection of the different Needle and Fancy Work made by their Poor Orphans is requested.

ASILE DE LA SAINTE ENFANCE.

Hongkong, 2nd December, 1908. [1038

THE IMPERIAL COLONIAL CLUB.

THE above Club is formed chiefly for COLONIAL and OVER-SEAS MEMBERS; it is situated at No. 84, Piccadilly (the centre of Clubland), opposite the Green Park.

The Club has a Bridge Section, Reception, Dining, Billiard Room, Smoking Lounge, Reading Room and Library.

Ladies are eligible as Members.

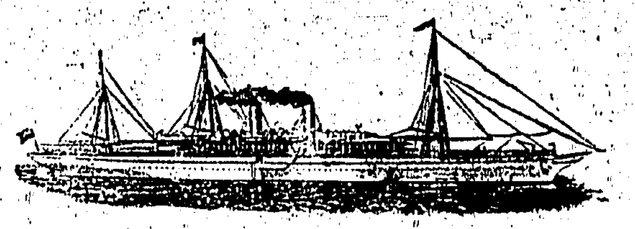
Entrance Fee, Five Guineas, Annual Subscription, Five Guineas.

Further particulars from THE ORGANISING SECRETARY, 84, Piccadilly, W.

London, 19th August, 1908. [769

Shipping—Steamers.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COY.'S ROYAL MAIL STEAMSHIP LINE.



Luxury—Speed—Punctuality.

The only Line that Maintains a Regular Schedule Service of under 12 Days across the Pacific is the "Empress Line." Saving 5 to 10 Days' Ocean Travel.

12 Days YOKOHAMA TO VANCOUVER. 21 Days HONGKONG TO VANCOUVER.

PROPOSED SAILINGS. *(Subject to Alteration).*

R.M.S.	Tons	LEAVE HONGKONG	ARRIVE VANCOUVER
"EMPRESS OF INDIA"	6,000	SATURDAY, Dec. 19th	Jan. 8th, 1909.
"EMPRESS OF JAPAN"	6,000	SATURDAY, Jan. 16th	Feb. 5th
"EMPRESS OF CHINA"	6,000	SATURDAY, Feb. 13th	March 5th
"MONTEAGLE"	6,163	TUESDAY, Mar. 2nd	Mar. 26th
"EMPRESS OF INDIA"	6,000	SATURDAY, Mar. 13th	April 2nd
"EMPRESS OF JAPAN"	6,000	SATURDAY, April 10th	April 30th

"EMPRESS" steamships will leave Hongkong at 7 A.M.

S.S. "MONTEAGLE" at 12 Noon.

THE Quickest route to CANADA, UNITED STATES and EUROPE, calling at SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, (through the INLAND SEA OF JAPAN), KOBE, YOKOHAMA and VICTORIA, B.C., connecting at VANCOUVER with a Special Mail Express, and at QUEBEC, with the Company's New Palatial 'EMPRESS' Steamships, 14,500 tons register thus providing a comfortable and speedy through route to Europe.

Hongkong to London, 1st Class .....*via* Canadian Atlantic Ports or New York £71.10.

Hongkong to London, Intermediate on Steamers, and 1st Class on Railways... " " £40. " " £42.

First-class rates to London include cost of Meals and Berth in Sleeping Car while crossing the American Continent by Canadian, Pacific direct line.

R.M.S. "MONTEAGLE" carries "Intermediate" Passengers only, at Intermediate rates, affording superior accommodation for that class.

Passengers Booked through to all points and AROUND THE WORLD.

SPECIAL THROUGH RATES (First class only) granted to Missionaries, Members of the Naval, Military, Diplomatic and Civil Services, and to European Officials in the Service of China and Japan Governments.

For further information, Maps, Routes, Hand Books, Rates of Freight and Passage, apply to D. W. CRADDOCK, General Traffic Agent for China, &c., 15] *Corner Pedder Street and Praya, Opposite Blake Pier.*

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LD.

(PROJECTED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG—SUBJECT TO ALTERATION).

For	Steamship.	On
SHANGHAI	*KWONGSANG*	SUNDAY, 13th Dec., Daylight.
SHANGHAI	*TINGSANG*	TUESDAY, 15th Dec., Noon.
SHANGHAI	*CHOYSANG**	WED'DAY, 16th Dec., Noon.
SHANGHAI, YOKOHAMA, KOBE & MOJI	*KUTSANG*†	WED'DAY, 16th Dec., Noon.
MANILA	*LOONGSANG**	FRIDAY, 18th Dec., 4 P.M.
S'GAPORE, PENANG & CALCUTTA	*NAMSANG**	MONDAY, 21st Dec., Noon.

RETURN TOURS TO JAPAN.

OCCUPYING 24 DAYS.

The steamers *Kutsang*, *Namsang* and *Fooksang* leave about every 3 weeks for Shanghai and Yokohama returning via Kobe (Inland Sea) and Moji to Hongkong, providing a stay of 5 to 6 days in Japan if passengers leave the steamer at Yokohama and rejoin at Kobe.

These vessels have all modern improvements and are fitted throughout with Electric Light. A duly qualified surgeon is also carried.

* Steamers have superior accommodation for First-class Passengers, and are fitted throughout with Electric Light.

† Taking Cargo on through Bills of Lading to Yangtsze Ports, Chefoo, Tientsin & Newchwang.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

JARDINE MATHESON & CO., LD.,
General Managers.

Telephone No. 61.
Hongkong, 10th December, 1908. [10

CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LIMITED.

SAILINGS SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

FOR	STEAMERS.	TO SAIL.	
SHANGHAI	"SZECHUEN"	12th	Dec., 4 P.M.
SWATOW, AMOY & SHANGHAI	"HANGCHOW"	13th	" Daylight.
HOIHOW & HAIPHONG	"CHIHLI"	14th	" 10 A.M.
SHANGHAI	"NINGPO"	14th	" 4 P.M.
MANILA	"TEAN"	15th	" 3 P.M.
NINGPO & SHANGHAI	"YOOHOW"	15th	" 4 P.M.
SAMARANG & SOURABAYA	"KUEICHOW"	17th	" "
CEBU & ILOILO	"KAIFONG"	18th	" "
MANILA, ZAMBOANGA and USUAL AUSTRALIAN PORTS	"TAIYUAN"	21st	" "
MANILA	"TAMING"	22nd	" 3 P.M.

MANILA and TIENTSIN STEAMERS have superior Passenger accommodation with Electric Light throughout and Electric Fans in the Staterooms and Dining Saloon.

AUSTRALIAN STEAMERS have superior accommodation with Electric Light throughout and Electric Fans in the Staterooms. A duly qualified Surgeon is carried. Cargo booked through for all Australian, New Zealand and Tasmanian Ports.

SHANGHAI STEAMERS have good Saloon Passenger accommodation and take cargo on through Bills of Lading to all Yangtsze and Northern China Ports.

Reduced Saloon Fares, Single and Return, to Manila and Australia.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
AGENTS.

Telephone No. 36.
Hongkong, 11th December, 1908 [13

HONGKONG—MANILA.

Highest Class, newest, fastest and most luxurious Steamers between Hongkong and Manila.—Saloon amidships—Electric Light—Perfect Cuisine—Surgeon and Stewardess carried.—All the most up-to-date arrangements for comfort of Passengers.

CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

Steamship.	Tons.	Captain.	For	Sailing Dates.
RUBI	2540	Almond	MANILA	SATURDAY, 12th Dec., at Noon.
ZAFIRO	2540	R. Rodger	"	SATURDAY, 19th Dec., at Noon.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

SHEWAN TOMES & CO.,
GENERAL MANAGERS.

Hongkong, 5th December, 1908 [8

Shipping—Steamers.

THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

STEAM FOR STRAITS, CEYLON, AUSTRALIA, INDIA, ADEN, EGYPT, MEDITERRANEAN PORTS, PLYMOUTH AND LONDON.

(Through Bills of Lading issued for BATAVIA, PERSIAN GULF, CONTINENTAL, AMERICAN and SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS.)

THE Steamship

"DEVANHA,"

Captain W. Hayward, R.N.R., carrying His Majesty's Mails, will be despatched from this for BOMBAY, &c., TO-MORROW, the 12th December, at Noon, taking Passengers and Cargo for the above Ports in connection with the Company's S.S. *Himalaya*, 7,000 tons, from Colombo. Passengers' accommodation in which vessel is secured before departure from Hongkong.

Silk and Valuables, all Cargo for France, and Tea for London (under arrangement) will be transhipped at Colombo into the Mail steamer proceeding direct to Marseilles and London, other Cargo for London, &c., will be conveyed via Bombay by the R.M.S. *Arabia*, due in London on 23rd January, 1909.

Parcels will be received at this Office until 4 P.M. the day before sailing. The Contents and Value of all Packages are required.

For further Particulars, apply to

E. A. HEWETT,
Superintendent.

Hongkong, 11th December, 1908. [7

THE AMERICAN AND ORIENTAL LINE.

FOR BOSTON AND NEW YORK.
(With liberty to call at the Malabar Coast).

THE Steamship

"TUDOR PRINCE,"

Captain Macdougall, will be despatched for the above Ports, on WEDNESDAY, the 16th December, 1908.

For Freight, apply to

ARNHOLD, KARBERG & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 9th December, 1908. [981

NORTHERN PACIFIC LINE

Connecting at Tacoma with NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY.

Taking Cargo on through Bills of Lading to all Overland Common Points in the United States of America and Canada, and also for the principal ports in Mexico, and Central and South America.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG FOR VICTORIA, B.C., SEATTLE & TACOMA, VIA MOJI, KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

Steamer	Tons.	Captain	To Sail
Kumeric	6,232	Cowley	Dec. 17
Inverie	4,789	Boyd	Jan. 14
Bouverie	4,445	Mathie	Feb. 1.
Suverie	6,252	Shotton	Mar. 11

These steamers are specially fitted for the carriage of Asiatic Steerage passengers.

PARCEL EXPRESS TO THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

For further Information, apply to

DODWELL & CO., LIMITED,
General Agents.

Queen's Buildings
Hongkong, 2nd December, 1908 [19-20

REGULAR STEAMSHIP SERVICE TO NEW YORK,

VIA PORTS AND SUEZ CANAL,
(With Liberty to Call at Malabar Coast.)

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG

FOR NEW YORK:
S.S. "LENNOX" .....18th Dec.

For Freight and further information, apply to

DODWELL & Co., LIMITED,
Agents.

Hongkong, 3rd December, 1908. [1041

STEAM TO CANTON.

THE New Twin Screw Steel Steamers

"KWONG TUNG" ...Capt. U. W. WALKER.
"KWONG SAI" .....Capt. E. S. CROWE.

Leave Hongkong for Canton at 9 every evening, (Saturday excepted).

Leave Canton for Hongkong at 5.30 every evening, (Sunday excepted).

These Fine New Steamers have unexcelled Accommodation for First Class Passengers and are lit throughout by Electricity. Electric Fans in First Class Cabins.

Passage Fare—Single Journey .....$4.
Meals .....$1.25 each

The Company's Wharf is situated in front of the New Western Market, opposite the old Harbour Office.

YUEN ON S.S. CO., LD.,
and
SHID ON S.S. CO., LD.
No. 1, Queen's Road West.

Hongkong, 2nd July, 1908 [60

Shipping—Steamers.

FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.

THE Steamship

"LIGHTNING,"

Captain A. E. Gaulles, will be despatched for the above Ports, TO-MORROW, the 12th instant, at Noon, instead of as previously advertised.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

DAVID SASSOON & Co., LIMITED,
Agents.

Hongkong, 11th December, 1908. [1059

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED,

FOR AMOY AND FOOCHOW.

THE Company's Steamship

"HAICHING,"

Captain Passmore, will be despatched for the above Ports, on SUNDAY, the 13th instant at Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 10th December, 1908. [106

NAVIGAZIONE GENERALE ITALIANA,
(*Florio and Rubattino United Companies*).

STEAM FOR BOMBAY VIA SINGAPORE AND PENANG.

Having connection with Company's Mail Steamers to PORT SAID, MESSINA, NAPLES, LEGHORN and GENOA, also VENICE and TRIESTE, all MEDITERRANEAN, ADRIATIC, LEVANTINE and SOUTH AMERICAN PORTS up to CALLAO.

(Taking Cargo at through Rates to PERSIAN GULF and BAGDAD, also BARCELONA, VALENZA, ALICANTE, ALMERIA and MALAGA.)

THE Steamship

"ISCHIA,"

Captain Belsito, will be despatched as above on TUESDAY, the 15th inst., at Noon.

For further Particulars regarding Freight and Passage, apply to

CARLOWITZ & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 11th December, 1908. [95

To Let.

TO LET.

GODOWN No. 5A, DUDDELL STREET.

Apply to—

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LD.

Hongkong, 1st December, 1908. [490

TO LET.

ONE LARGE ROOM, with Spacious Verandah, and Bath-Room attached and use of Servants' Quarters, on CONDUIT ROAD LEVEL. Magnificent view of the Harbour and Mainland.

Apply—

SEPOL,
C/o Hongkong Telegraph.

Hongkong, 15th November, 1908. [1019

TO LET.

HATHERLEIGH, CONDUIT ROAD.

A HOUSE in WONG-NEI-CHONG ROAD.

A HOUSE in RIPON TERRACE.

OFFICES in YORK BUILDING.

GODOWNS in PRAYA EAST, BLUE BUILDINGS, and No. 16B, DES VŒUX ROAD next to the Hongkong Hotel.

FLATS in MORETON TERRACE

No. 10; DES VŒUX ROAD CENTRAL, 1st Floor.

Apply to—

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LD.

Hongkong, 1st December, 1908 [66

For Sale.

THERAPION MAY NOW ALSO BE OBTAINED IN DRAGEE (TASTELESS) FORM.

SELF CURE NO LONGER A MARVEL UPON WHICH SUFFERERS NEED NOW DESPAIR,

between which and sinking a doctor's bill of failing in the desperate clutch of quackery, may safely, speedily and effectually cure himself without the knowledge of a second party. By the introduction of the NEW FRENCH REMEDY

THERAPION

a complete revolution has been wrought in the department of medical science, whilst thousands have been restored to health and happiness who for years previously had been merely dragging out a miserable existence.

THERAPION No. 1—A Sovereign Remedy for discharges, supervening injections, the use of which does irreparable harm by laying the foundation of stricture and other serious diseases.

THERAPION No. 2—A Sovereign Remedy for primary and secondary skin eruptions, ulcerations, pains and swellings of the joints, and all those complaints which mercury and sarsaparilla are popularly but erroneously supposed to cure. This preparation purifies the whole system through the blood and thoroughly eliminates all poisonous matter from the body.

THERAPION No. 3—A Sovereign Remedy for debility, nervousness, impaired vitality, sleeplessness, distaste and incapacity for business or pleasure, love of solitude, blushing, indigestion, pains in the back and head, and all disorders resulting from dissipation, early excesses, &c., which the faculty so persistently ignore, because an insecure or even relief.

THERAPION is sold by chemists throughout the world. Price in Europe 12 francs. In ordering, state which of the three numbers required, and observe that the word "THERAPION" appears on British Government Stamp (in white letters on a red ground) affixed to every package by order of His Majesty's Hon. Commissioners, and without which it is a forgery.

Sole by All Chemists [69—D

HONGKONG AVERAGE MARKET PRICES.

Corrected 11th December, 100 cts. per $ Mex.

BUTCHER MEAT.

		Cents.
Beef sirloin & prime cut—Mei Lung Pa	℔	18
" Corned—Ham Ngau Yuk	"	18
" Roast—Shiu " "	"	18
" Breast—Ngau Lam	"	13
" Soup, Tong Yuk	"	15
" Steak—Ngau Yuk Pa	"	18
" " Sirloin—Ngau Lau	"	28
" Sausages,—Ngau Yuk Chaung	"	26
Bullock's Brains— " Know.....	per set	10
" Tongue fresh—Ngau Li.....	each	50
" " corned—Ham Ngau Li	"	58
" Head—Ngau Tau	"	80
" Heart—Ngau Sum	per ℔	12
" Hump, Salt—Ngau Kin	"	18
" Feet—Ngau Keok	each	7
" Kidneys—Ngau Yiu	"	10
Tail—Ngau Mei	"	17
" Liver—Ngau Con	℔	12
" Tripe (undressed)—Ngau To	"	—
Calves' Head and Feet—Ngau-chai-tau-kcok	set	$1.00
Mutton Chop—Yeung Pai Kwat	℔	22
" Leg—Yeung Pei	"	22
" Shoulder—Yeung Shau	"	20
Pigs' Chitlings—Chi cheong	"	22
" Brains—Chi Know	per set	2
" Feet—Chi Keok	"	11
" Fry—Chi Chak	"	25
" Head—Chi Tau	"	15
" Heart—Chi Sum	each	8
" Kidneys—Chi Yiu	pair	7
" Liver—Chi Kon	℔	24
Pork, Chop—Chi Pai Kwat	"	18
" Corned—Ham Chu Yuk	"	—
" Leg—Chu Pei	"	2
" Fat or Lard—Chu Yau	"	17
Sheep's Head and Feet—Yeung Tau Kook	set	50
" Heart—Yeung Sum	each	6
" Kidneys—Yeung Yiu	"	10
" Liver—Yeung Con	℔	22
Sucking Pigs, To Order—Chu Chai	"	—
Suet Beef—Sang Ngau Yiu	"	20
" Mutton—Sang Yeung Yau	"	—
Veal—Ngau Chai Yuk	"	—
" Sausages—Ngau Chai Yuk Tong	"	20

POULTRY.

		Cents.
Chicken—Kai Chai	℔	28
Capons, Large, Small—Sio Kai	"	28
Ducks—Ap	"	20
Doves—Pan Kau	each	18
Eggs, Hen—Kai Tan	per doz.	21
Fowls, Canton—Kai	℔	30
" Hainan—Hoi Nam Kai	"	26
Geese—Ngo	"	19
Geese, Wild Shanghai—Sheung Hoi Ye Ngo	pair	$1.80
Musk Deer—Wong Kong	each	$4.00
Hare—Tu Chai	"	65
Partridge—Che Khoo	"	60
Pheasant—Shan Kai	pair	$1.60
Pigeons, Canton—Pak Kup	each	25
" Hoihow—Hoihow Pak Kup	"	13
Quail—Um-Chun	"	13
Rice Birds—Wo Fa Cheuk	dozen	75
Snipe—Sa Chui	each	25
Turkeys, Cock—Fo Kai Kung	per ℔	60
" Hen— " " Na	"	45
Wild Ducks, Shanghai, Sui-ap	pair	$1.20
Teal, Shanghai, Sui Ap Chai	"	55
Wild Ducks Canton—Sang Shing Sui Ap	per pair	90

FISH.

		Cents.
Barbel—Ka Yu	℔	8
Bream—Bin Yu	"	13
Canton Fresh Water Fish—Hoi Bin Yu	"	14
Carp—Li Yu	"	16
Catfish—Chik Yu	"	11
Codfish—Mun Yu	"	14
Crabs—Hai	"	18
Cuttle Fish—Muk Yu	"	15
Dab—Sa Mang Yu	"	13
Dace—Wong Mei-Lun	"	12
Dog Fish—Tit Tu Sa	"	9
Eels, Congor—Hai Man Yu	"	14
" Fresh water—Tam Sui Yu	"	14
" Yellow—Wong Sin	"	24
Frogs—Tien Kai	"	28
Garoupa—Sak Pan	"	48
Gudgeon—Pak Kup Yu	"	12
Herrings—Tso Pak	"	18
Halibut—Cheung Kwan Yu	"	24
Labrus—Wong Fa Yu	"	14
Loach—Wu Yu	"	25
Lobsters—Lung Ha	"	32
Mackerel—Chi Yu	"	16
Monk Fish—Mon Yu	"	26
Mullet—Chai Yu	"	24
Oysters—Sang Hoo	"	20
Parrotfish—Kai Kung Yu	"	15
Perch—Tau Loo	"	14
Pike—Fa Paw Poong	"	8
Plaice—Pan Yu	"	18
Pomfret, Black—Hak Chong	"	24
Pomfret, White—Pak Chong	"	28
Prawns—Ming Ha	"	40
Ray—Pei Pa Ka	"	9
Rock Fish—Sak Kau Kong	"	15
Roach—Chun Yu	"	28
Salmon, (Fine), fresh water—Ma Yue Yu	"	28

		Cents.
Shark—Sa Yu	℔	8
Skate—Po Yu	"	10
Shrimps—Ha	"	24
Snapper—Lap Yu	"	20
Soles—Tat Sa Yu	"	24
Tench—Wan Yu	"	18
Turbot—Cho How Yu	"	24
Turtles, small, fresh water—Keok Yu	"	60
White Bait—Ngan Yu Chai	"	—

FRUITS.

		Cents.
Almond—Hung Yan	℔	28
Apples, (California)—Kam San Ping Ko	"	23
" (Chefoo)—Tin Chun Ping Ko	"	15
" Small—Hoi Tong	"	—
" Custard—Fan Lai Chi	each	—
Bananas, fragrant, Canton—Sang Sheung Heung Chiu	℔	5
" (brides), Macao—San Heung Chiu	"	6
Chestnuts, Chinese—Foong Lut	"	20
Carambola—Yeung Tou	"	7
Cocoanuts—Yeh Tsz	each	10
Grapes—Sin Tai Tsz	℔	24
Lemons, China—Ning Moong	"	6
" Amar.—Kum San Ning Moong	"	7
Lichees, Small Stone—Lai Chi Con	"	24
" Fresh, Lai Chi	"	—
Limes, (Saigon)—Sai Kung Ning Moong	each	6
Mango, Manila—Lui Sung Mong	"	—
Mango, Saigon—Sai Kung Moong	"	—
Mangosteens, San Chuk Tsz per 100	"	—
Oranges, Tim Chang	℔	10
" Small—Tai Kut	catty	—
" Mandarin—Tim Kut	"	—
Olives—Pak Lam	℔	8
Passion Fruit	each	—
Pears, (American)—Kam San Shut Li	℔	18
" (Canton), Cooking—Sa Li	"	14
" (Shanghai)—Sheung Hoi Li	"	18
Peanuts,—Fa Sang	"	10
Persimmons, Large,—Hung Chie	"	—
Pine-apples, 1st quality—Sheung Poon Ti Paw-law	each	6
" 2nd cooking—Chung-tang Paw-law	"	6
Plaintains—Tai Chiu	℔	3
Plums, Swatow—Hung Lai	"	—
Pumelo, Siam—Chim Lo Yau	each	10
Walnuts, Hop Tou	"	12
" Green—Sang Hop Tou	"	—
Shanghai Lo Kwat	℔	10

VEGETABLES, &c.

		Cents.
Artichokes, Shanghai,—Sheung Hoi Ah Chi Chauk	℔	7
Beans, (French) Macao—Oh Moon Pin Tau	"	10
Beans, (French), Shanghai—Sheung Hoi Pin Tau	"	8
Beans, Sprout—Ah Choi	"	4
Beans, Long—Tau Kok	"	—
Beet Root—Hung Choi Tau	each	2
Brinjals, Green—Cheng Yuen Ker	"	4
Brinjals, Red—Hung Ker	"	4
Brassica—Pak Choi	"	4
Bamboo Shoots—Chook Shun	"	3
Cabbage, Chinese, com.—Kai Choy	"	4
Cabbage, Red—Kai Lan Tau	each	—
Cabbage, (Shanghai)—Yeh Choi	"	8
Cane Shoots, bunch—Kau Shun	"	3
Cauliflower, Large size—Tai Yeh Choi Fa	each	28
Cauliflower, Medium size—Cheung Yeh Choi-fa	each	20
Cauliflower, Small size—Sai Yeh-Choi-fa	"	15
Carrots—Kam Shun	"	7
Celery, Chinese—Tong Kan Choy	"	5
Celery, English—Yeung Kan Choi	"	5
Celery, White—Pak Yeung Kan Choi	"	—
Chillies, Dried—Con Lat Chiu	"	12
" Red—Hung Fa	"	12
" Green—Cheng Lat Chiu	"	12
Curry Stuff, English—Ka Lee Choi Liu	"	8
Cucumbers—Cheng Kwa	"	2
Bitter Squash—Fu Kwa	"	16
Garlic—Suen Tau	"	8
Ginger, young—Sun Tsz Keung	"	8
" old—Lo Keung	"	6
Horse Radish, Shanghai—Lik Kan	℔	20
Indian Corn—Suk Mai	piece	—
Lettuce—Yeung Sang Choi	each	1
Water Chesnuts—Ma Tai	"	6
" Mandarin—Kwei Lum Ma Tai	"	6
Musk Melon	"	—
Mushrooms, Fresh—Sang Cho Kho	"	—
Onions, Bombay—Yeung Chung Tau	"	8
" Green—Sang Chung	"	3
" Shai—Sheung Hoi Chung Tau	"	8
" Japan—Yat Poon	"	—
Okroes—Mo Ker	"	8
Parsley, English—Yeung Un Sai	℔	20
Gradus Pea	"	15
Green Peas—Cheng Tau	"	—
Potatoes, Sweet—Fan Shu	"	3
" Shanghai—Sheung Hoi Shu Tsai	"	4
" Japan—Yat Poon Shu Tsai	"	—
" American—Fa Ki	"	8
" Foochow—Fuk Chau Shu Tsai	"	3
" Macao—Oh Moon	"	—
Pumpkin—Toong Kwa	"	3
Radish—Hung Lo Pak Tsai	℔	4
Rhubarb	"	—
Shalots—Con Chung Tsy	"	8
Spinage (Chinese)—Paw Choi	"	4
Spinach—Yin Choi	"	4
Tomatoes—Fan Ker	"	4
Taros—Wu Tap	"	4
Turnips, Pun-ti (Long)—Low Pak	"	3
" English—Yeung Low Pak	piece	—
Vegetable Marrow—Chit Kwa	"	5
Water Cresses—Sai Yeung Choi	"	8
" Caltrops—Lan Kok	℔	—
" Lily Roots—Lin Ngau	"	5
Yams—Tai Shu	"	3
Sage	per bundle	—

The prices necessarily vary from day to day, and the Sanitary Board has no power to compel stallholders to sell at the prices quoted.

A. GIBSON,
Secretary, Sanitary Board.

COMMERCIAL.

TO-DAY'S EXCHANGE.

Selling.

London—Bank T.T. 1/8½
Do. demand 1/8 5/16
Do. 4 months' sight 1/8½
France—Bank T.T. 2.12
America—Bank T.T. 41
Germany—Bank T.T. 1.72½
India T.T. 127
Do. demand 127
Shanghai—Bank T.T. 71½
Singapore—Bank T.T. per H.K. $100 ... 72½
Japan—Bank T.T. 82½
Java—Bank T.T. 121½

Buying.

4 months' sight L/C. 1.81
6 months' sight L/C. 1.81½
3 days' sight San Francisco & New York 41
4 months' sight do. 42½
30 days' sight Sydney & Melbourne 1.81
4 months' sight France 2.17½
6 months' sight 2.19½
4 months' sight Germany 1.77½
Bar Silver 22½
Bank of England rate ..... 3½ %
Sovereign 11.73

SHIPPING AND MAILS

MAILS DUE

German (*Derfflinger*) 17th inst.
American (*Hongkong Maru*) 18th inst.

The s.s. *Kumeric* left Manila this morning for Hongkong.

The N. Y. K. s.s. *Yebokhi Maru*, Bombay Line, left Moji for this port on 9th inst., and is expected here on 15th inst.

The N. Y. K. s.s. *Tosa Maru*, American Line, left Shanghai for this port on 10th inst., and is expected here on 13th inst.

The G. N. s.s. *Minnesota* from Seattle arrived at Yokohama on 10th inst., will sail for Hongkong via usual ports of call on 12th inst., and may be expected here on 25th inst.

Shipping.

ARRIVALS

Empress of India, Br. s.s., 3,032, E. Beetham, R.N.R., 10 h Dec.,—Vancouver 10th Nov., and Shanghai 8th Dec, Mails and Gen.—C. P. R. Co.

Menelaus, Br. s.s., 3,006, J. N. Williamson, 10th Dec.,—Liverpool 31st Oct., Gen.—B. & S.

Mathilde, Ger. s.s., 831, A. P. Ulderup, 10th Dec.,—Haiphong and Hoihow 8th Dec., Rice and Gen.—J. & Co.

Clara Jebsen, Ger. s.s., 1,103, J. Bendixen, 10th Dec.,—Haiphong 7th Dec, Coal.—J. & Co.

Claverdon, Br. s.s., 2,085 Putt, 10th Dec.,—Cardiff 14th Oct, Coal and Patent Fuel.—D. & Co., Ld.

Delta, Br. s.s., 4,780, H. W. Snow, 11th Dec., —Bombay 25th Nov., and Singapore 5th Dec., Mails and Gen.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Devanha, Br. s.s., 4,785, Wm. Hayward, R.N.R., 11th Dec.,— hanghai 8th Dec., Mails and Gen.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Yochow, Br. s.s., 1,306, J. H. Brown, 11th Dec., —Shanghai 7th Dec., Gen.—B. & S.

Kwanglee, Ch. s.s., 1,487, R. Lincoln, 11th Dec.,—Canton 10th Dec., Gen.—C. M. S. N. Co.

Waishing, Br. s.s., 1,170, W. F. Bichard, 11th Dec.,—Canton 10th Dec., Gen.—J., M. & Co.

Tean, Br. s.s., 1,146, Outerbridge, 11th Dec.,—Manila 8th Dec., Gen.—B. & S.

Johanne, Ger. s.s., 987, J. Iwersen, 11th Dec., —Haiphong and Hoihow 9th Dec., Gen.—J. & Co.

Kiang Ching, Ch. s.s., 1,027, Brissander, 11th Dec.,—Hankow 2nd Dec., and Chinkiang 4th, Gen.—Tuck Lee.

Foiching, Chi s.s., 980, R. G. Paramore, 11th Dec.,—Chefoo 6th Dec, Gen.—C. M. S. N. Co.

Fausang, Br. s.s., 1,470, H. S. Malkins, 11th Dec.,—Hongay 8th Dec., Coal.—J., M. & Co.

H.M. Am. naval store-ship, Orideaux, 11th Dec., —Manila 8 h Dec., Stores.—American Government.

Clearances at the Harbour Office.

Aldenham, for Port Darwin.
Hongkong, for Haiphong.
Keongwai, for Swatow.
Tsifa an, for Shanghai.
Foiching, for Canton.
Yuensang, for Manila.
Delta, for Shanghai.
Yochow, for Canton.
Waishing, for Shanghai.
Astyanax, for Nagasaki.
Menelaus, for Heelung.

Departures

Dec. 11.

Aldenham, for Australian Ports.
Elsang, for Shanghai.
Simongan, for Saigon.
Chaouteh w, for Amoy
Tsipanas, for Shanghai.
Yesam Maru, for Kutchinotzu.
Sultan van Langkat, for Singapore.
Shaohing, for Shanghai.
Chiyuen, for Canton.
Waishing, for Shanghai.
Hongkong, for Haiphong.
Frithjof, for Saigon.
Keongwai, for Bangkok.
Yuensang, for Manila.

Passengers arrived.

Per *Empress of India*, from Vancouver—Mr. E. Stanton, Misses F. Ferguson, D. Cheney, F. Boedicker, Mr. and Mrs. J. Gibson, Messrs. Geo. Dickson, H. Hall, L. E. Collier, and two Chinese. From Yokohama—Major Yate., and Mrs. Allix. From Kobe—E. S. Hartshorn, Mrs. Hartshorn, Mr. R. Barker, and Mrs. Barker. From Nagasaki—Mr. Albert A. Jesus. From Shanghai—Miss H. A. Lindsay, Mrs. E. Lavis, Dr. and Mrs. Wiedner, Mr. C. H. Rose, Col., Mrs. and Miss Augur, Messrs. L. Murat, C. Howard, R. A. Gubbay, John Kramsky, 374 Chinese and 2 Hindoos.

Per *Delta*, for Hongkong from Bombay—Mr. H. M. Bhi ji, and Mr. and Mrs Noronha. From Colombo—Mrs. Ewing. From Marseilles—Dr. Dennis O'Hagan, Mrs. Tuckenbach, Miss Maria Studer (nurse), Mr. Reid, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Jones, and Mr. and Mrs. Black. From Aden—Capt Jas. Rosa. From London—Mr. Kinnaird, Miss Milne, Messrs. McKirdy, McKenzie, Mr. and Mrs. Bellilos and maid. From Penang—Mr. Lye Swee Chi and 2 native servants. From Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. Strong, Mr. J. B Gibbons, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Kheng and 3 native servants, Messrs. C. Watkin, Kin Kang, Mr. and Mrs. Reeves, Mrs. and Miss Monarte, Messrs. S. C. Hallam and E. Gomes. For Manila (from Marseilles—Mr. Moore, Bishop Hendrick, and Rev. Ramisse. For Shanghai from London—Mr. and Mrs Craig, Mr. Watson, Mrs. Hards, Mr. and Mrs. Edwards and child. From Marseilles—Mrs. Harker Taylor, child and maid, Mr. and Mrs. Scott and maid, Messrs. Sleap and Ralphs. For Yokohama from London—Misses Kiddie and Mackenzie, Mr. Graham, Misses B. Forsyth, Hamer, Messrs. S. Shroubb, M. McLeod, S. Geech, L. Lowndes, C. F. Cooke, T. Sydney, C. Vane, Mr. and Mrs. D Vigoura, Misses H. Vaughan, J. Harcourt, I. Forsyth, D. Forsyth, Mr. Harry Neville, Miss Rayner, and Mr. Smith. From Marseilles—Messrs. Colleyshaw, Paterson, and Mr. and Mrs. Gracey. From Penang—Bandmaon Opera Co.

Per *Tean*, from Manila—Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Arnold, Messrs. H. J. Torras, J. H Sinchom, Mrs. J. Gillis, L. W. Keim, W. A. Muir, W. B. Dempster, and 13 Chinese.

Shipping Reports.

Str. *Feiching* from Chefoo :—Strong N'ly gale to Doda Island, fine from thence.

Str. *Tean*, from Manila :—Strong N.E. wind high sea cloudy and drizzly wind decreasing towards port.

VESSELS IN PORT.

STEAMERS.

Aragonia, Ger. s.s., 5,460, Meyer, 10th Dec.,—New York 9th Oct., Gen and Case Oil.—H. A. L.

Astyanax, Br. s.s., 3,021, D. Maclean, 10th Dec.,—Singapore 2nd Dec., Gen—B. & S.

Binh-Thuan, Fr. s.s., 934, Ribault, 4th Dec.,—Manila 29th Nov., Ballast.—Basa & Co.

Carl Diederichsen, Ger. s.s., 774, J. Kaysen, 9th Dec.,—Haiphong 6th Dec, Pigs and Gen.—J. & Co.

Chihli, Br. s.s., 1,147, J. Warrack, 10th Dec.,—Haiphon, 5th Nov., and Hoihow 8th, Rice and Gen.—B. & S.

China, Am. ss., 3,186, D. E. Friele, 1st Dec., —San Francisco 3rd Nov., Honolulu 10th, Yokohama 23rd, Kobe 24th, Nagasaki 26th, and Shanghai 28th, Mails and Gen. —P. M. S. S. Co.

Fri, Nor. s.s., 860, C. Wagle, 17th Nov.,—Manila 13th Nov., Ballast.—Aagaard, Thoresen & Co.

Haiching, Br. s.s., 1,120, W. C. Passmore, 9th Dec.,—Foochow and Amoy 7th Dec., Gen. —D., L. & Co.

Hilary Gen. s.s., 1,276, Hatje, 4th Dec.,—Pulo Laut 2nd Nov., Coal.—S., W. & Co.

Hinsang, Br. s.s., 1,536, A. Smith, 28th Nov., —Samarang 16th Nov., Sugar.—J., M. & Co.

Ischia, Ital. ss., 2,481, B. Guiseppe, 10th Dec.,—Bombay 17th Nov., Colombo 2 st, Penang 27th, and Singapore 30th, Gen.—C & Co.

Kilburn, Br. s.s., 2,111, Adam, 5th Dec.,—Hongay 1st Dec., Coal.—D. & Co., Ld.

Kohsichang, Ger. s.s., 1,292, C. Rosiefsky, 5th Dec.,—Bangkok 19th Nov., Rice and Timber.—B. & S.

Laertes, Br. s.s., 1,340, H. C. Frampton, 4th Dec.,—Saigon 25th Nov., Gen.—Wo Fat Sing.

Lennox, Br. s.s., 2,361, F. McNair, 16th Nov., —Shanghai 13th Nov., Gen.—C. P. R. Co.

Lightning, Br. s.s., 2,122, A. E. Gentles, 3rd Dec.,—Calcutta via Penang and Singapore 25th Nov., Gen.—D. S. & Co., Ld.

Manchuria, Am. s.s., 8,750, J. W. Saunders, 7th Dec.,—San Francisco 10th Nov., and Manila 4th Dec., Mails and Gen.—P. M. S. S Co.

Merapi, Dut. s.s., 1,578, E. Ulfall, 5th Dec.,—Samarang via Pulo Laut 16th Nov., Sugar. —Kian Gwan.

Ningpo, Br. s.s., 1,228, Richards, 9th Dec.,—Swatow 8th Dec., Ballast.—P. & S.

Pitsanulok, Ger. s.s., 1,267, D. Reimers, 6th Dec.,—Bangkok 25th Nov., Rice.—B. & S.

Prometheus, Nor. s.s., 1,024, O. Kornelinsen, 6th Dec.,—Wuhu 27th Nov, and Swatow 5th 5th, Ballast.—H. A. L.

Rubi, Br. s.s., 1,610, R. W. Almond, 9th Dec., —Manila 5th Dec., Gen.—S., T. & Co.

Swanley, Br. s.s., 2,988, W. E. Steele, 15th Nov.,—Ching-wan-tao 9th Nov., Coal.—S., T. & Co.

Szechuen, Br. s.s., 1,157, Sidford, 5th Dec.,—Canton 4th Dec., Gen.—B. & S.

Takasaki Maru, Jap. s.s., 3,000, A. Mocker, 28th Nov.,—from Bombay and Singapore, Gen.—N. Y. K.

Tjibodas, Dut. s.s., 2,953, P. Zwart, 4th Dec., —Moji 29th Nov., Coal.—J. C. J. L.

Tonawanda, Br. s.s., 2, 81, Trigg, 9th Dec.,—Haiphong 4th Dec., Ballast.—S. O. Co.

Ulster, Br. s.s., 2,310, Perry, 27th Oct.,—Manila 23rd Oct., Ballast.—Master.

Zweena, Br. s.s., 941, A. Ramsay, 10th Dec.,—Samarang 29th Nov., Gen and Sugar.—Yuen Fat Hong.

SAILING VESSELS.

Daylight, Br. ship, 3,069, McBryde, 9th Oct.,—Yokohama 19th Sept., Ballast.—S. O Co.

Lyndhurst, Br. bark, Parnell, 14th Sept.,—Bangkok 26th Aug., Case Oil.—S. O Co.

Tarang, Br schooner, 87, Oliver, 7th Dec.,—Palau Island 15th Nov., Iron.—Mr. G. P. Lammert.

Steamers Expected.

Vessels	From	Agents	Due
Empire	Manila ...	G., L. & Co	Dec. 12
P. Waldemar..	Manila ...	M. & Co...	Dec. 12
Glenearn	Singapore.	McG. & G.	Dec. 12
Benledi	Singapore.	G., L. & Co	Dec. 12
Tasang ...	Singapore	J., M. & Co	Dec. 14
Barcelona ...	Singapore.	H. A. L. ...	Dec. 14
Yeboshi Maru.	Moji	N. Y. K. ..	Dec. 15
Glenavon	Singapore.	McG. & G.	Dec. 16
Derfflinger.....	Colombo ...	M. & Co.	Dec. 17
H'kong Maru..	Japan	T. K. K. ..	Dec. 18
Yetorofu Maru.	Bombay ...	N. Y. K. ..	Dec. 21
Minnesota	Japan	N. Y. K. ..	Dec. 25

DOCK RETURNS.

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCKS.

Usher ..... at Kowloon Dock
Hilary ..... " " "
H.M.S. Virago ..... " " "
Hinsang ..... " " "
Swanley ..... " " "
Tsingtau ..... " " "

Ships Passed Tae Cock.

1 th November—*Benledi, Bulow, Glenavon, Soyo Maru*, 13th November—*Ernest Simons, Menelaus, Telemachus, Inaba Maru, Kawachi Maru, Lituania*, 17th November—*Brastilla, Oanfa, Zieten, Theseus* 20th November—*Achilles, Caledonien, Carnarvonshire*. 24th November—*Derfflinger, Benvorlich, Sumatra, Sunda, Shimosa*. 27th November—*Suruga, Hitachi Maru, Alcinous, Prieur, Ping Suey, Sanuki Maru, Silesia*, (Ger.) *Yunnan, Biverie, Scandia, Jumna*. 1st December—*Trarguebar, Soudan, Sumatra, Tonkin*. 4th December—*Bellerophon, Monmouthshire, Polynesian, Ellen Richmers, Hyson, Nyanza, Silesia*, (Aus. 8th December—*Benlarig, Glenitchy, Irdrani, Prinz Eitel Friedrich*.

Arrivals at Home—10th November—*Flintshire, Cathay*. 13th. November—*Colombo Maru*. 16th November—*Barca*. 17th November—*Mathona, Prometheus*. 19th November—*Nore*, 20th November—*Ambria, Inaba Maru*. 27th November—*Caledonien, Indramayo, Vandalia*. 1st December *Verwaerts, Zieten*. 4th December—*Achilles, Alcinous, Oanfa*. 8th December—*Brastilla, Ping Suey, Hitachi Maru*.

CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

December 10th, 1908, a.m.

			Bar.	Th.	Hu.	Wind	W.
Vladivostock	7	a.m.	30.25	23	99	—	0	0
Nemuro	6	a.m.	30 24	—	—	W	4	—
Hakodate		"	30.32	—	—	W	6	—
Tokio		"	30.54			—	0	—
Kochi		"	30.54	—	—	SW	2	—
Nagasaki		"	30.46	—	—	E	2	—
Kagoshima		"	30 47	—	—	NE	6	—
Oshima		"	30 32	—	—	E	4	—
Naha		"	30 20	—	—	E	6	—
Ishigakijima		"	30 01	—	—	E	6	—
Bonin Is.		"	30.36	—	—	N	4	—
Chefoo	6	a.m	30.53	31	78	S	1	b
Weihaiwei	9	a.m	30 52	40	—	NW	1	b
Hankow	6	a.m	30 59	42	83	NE	1	b
Kiukiang		"	30 52	42	92	NE	1	c
Shanghai	7	a.m	30.46	54	80	N	1	c
Gutzlaff		"	30.39	54	94	N	3	om
Sharp Peak		"	0 28	58	81	N	3	o
Amoy		a.m	3 2 14	53	81	NE	3	o
Swatow		"	30.12	53	87	N	1	c
Taihoku	5	a.m.	30.15	—	—	E	6	—
Taitsu		"	30 02	—	—	—	0	—
Tainan		"	30.03	—	—	N	4	—
Koshun		"	30.02	—	—	NE	6	—
Pescadores		"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canton	9	a.m	30.31	55	74	N	2	or
Hongkong	to	a.m.	30.23	60	71	N	2	o
Victoria Peak		"	—	—	—	NW	3	—
Gap Rock		"	30.19	—	—	N	6	—
Macao		"	30 25	58	—	NNW	3	o
Wuchow	9	a.m.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hoihow		"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pakhoi		"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phullen	8	a.m.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tonrane		"	—	—	—	—	—	—
C. St. James		"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aparri	6	a.m.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manila	10	a.m.	29.96	82	85	WNW	1	o
Legaspi	6	a.m	29 95	79	—	NE	1	c
Bacolod	9	a.m.	—	—	—	NE	0	—
Iloilo		"	29.97	84	—	NE	0	b
Cebu		"	29 92	83	—	N	1	b
Labuan		"	29 83	76	—	—	—	—

December 11th 1908, a.m.

Vladivostock	7	a.m.	30 04	30	62	—	0	0
Nemuro	6	a.m	30 04	—	—	S	2	—
Hakodate		"	30.13	—	—	W	6	—
Tokio		"	30.34	—	—	—	0	—
Kochi		"	30.39	—	—	SW	2	—
Nagasaki		"	30.35	—	—	E	2	—
Kagoshima		"	30.35	—	—	NE	2	—
Oshima		"	3 3 28	—	—	—	0	—
Naha		"	30.17	—	—	E	6	—
Ishigakijima		"	30.05	—	—	E	6	—
Bonin Is.		"	30 40	—	—	E	2	—
Chefoo	6	a.m	30 34	36	80	S	1	b
Weihaiwei		a.m	30 37	44	—	W	1	b
Hankow		a.m	30 46	47	85	NW	1	o
Kiukiang		"	30 38	49	78	NE	1	o
Shanghai		a.m	30 33	53	100	NE	2	ord
Gutzlaff		"	30 28	55	100	NE	4	fr
Sharp Peak		"	30.18	62	94	NW	1	or
Amoy	6	a.m	30 10	64	89	NE	1	o
Swatow		"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Taihoku		a.m	30.13	—	—	—	0	—
Taichu		"	30 05	—	—	—	0	—
Tainan		"	30.05	—	—	N	2	—
Koshun		"	30 04	—	—	—	0	—
Pescadores		"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canton	9	a.m	30.26	58	81	N	1	or
Hongkong	to	a.m	30 18	64	75	W	1	o
Victoria Peak		"	—	—	—	NNE	1	—
Gap Rock		"	30.16	—	—	NNW	4	—
Macao		"	30.22	67	—	NW	1	c
Wuchow	9	a.m	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hoihow		"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pakhoi		"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phullen	8	a.m	30.24	61	—	N	2	o
Tourane		"	30 15	78	—	—	0	—
C. St. James		"	29.99	77	—	NW	1	o
Aparri	6	a.m	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manila	10	a.m.	30.00	81	76	—	0	o
Legaspi	6	a.m	29.96	79	—	E	1	o
Bacolod	9	a.m	—	—	—	NNE	1	op
Iloilo		"	29 95	81	—	NE	1	c
Cebu		"	29 95	80	—	N	1	o
Labuan		"	29 26	80	—	—	—	—

	Dec. 10 at 10 a.m.	Dec. 10 at 4 p.m.
Barometer	30.23	30.12
Temperature	69	64
Humidity	71	61
Rainfall	0.14	—

Post Office.

☞ In accordance with an instruction received from the American Postal Authorities on the present the weight limit on parcels to America by the direct route has been altered from 11 lbs. to its old limit 4 lbs. 6 ozs.

☞ Approximate times of closing mails at Shanghai via Dalny and Siberia :—

17th December, at 8.30 A.M.
25th December, at 10.00 A.M.
31st December, at 8.30 P.M.

A Mail will close for :—

Manila—Per *Rubi*, 12th Dec., 10 A.M.

Saigon—Per *Laertes*, 12th Dec., 10 A.M.

Shanghai, Nagasaki, Kobe, Yokohama, Honolulu and San Francisco, (Will take letters to Europe marked via Siberia)—Per *China*, 12th Dec., 10 A.M.

Singapore, Penang and Calcutta—Per *Lightning*, 12th Dec., 10 A.M.

Europe, &c., India, *via* Tuticorin—Per *Devanha*, 12th Dec., 11 A.M.

Macao—Per *Sui Tai*, 12th Dec., 1.15 P.M.

Amoy, Shanghai, Yokohama and Kobe—Per *Aragonia*, 12th Dec., 2 P.M.

Shanghai, (Will take letters to Europe marked via Siberia) — Per *Kwanglee*, 12th Dec. 3 P.M.

Amoy and Shanghai—Per *Szechuen*, 12th Dec., 3 P.M.

Swatow and Bangkok—Per *Pitsanulok*, 12th Dec., 5 P.M.

Shanghai — Per *Kwongtung*, 12th Dec. 5 P.M.

Amoy and Foochow—Per *Haiching*, 12th Dec., 5 P.M.

Haiphong—Per *Mathilde*, 12th Dec., 5 P.M.

Hoihow and Haiphong—Per *Chihli*, 14th Dec., 9 A.M.

Shanghai—Per *Tingtang*, 15th Dec., 11 A.M.

Singapore, Penang and Bombay—Per *Ischia*, 15th Dec., 11 A.M.

Manila—Per *Tean*, 15th Dec., 2 P.M.

Ningpo and Shanghai—Per *Yochow*, 15th Dec., 3 P.M.

Shanghai, Yokohama, Kobe and Moji—Per *Kutsang*, 16th Dec., 10 A.M.

Europe, &c., India, *via* Tuticorin—Per *Gceben*, 16th Dec., 11 A.M.

Shanghai—Per *Chiyang*, 16th Dec., 11 A.M.

Samarang and Soerabaya—Per *Kwaichow*, 17th Dec., Dec., 3 P.M.

Manila, Zamboanga, Port Darwin, Thursday Island, Cooktown, Cairns, Townsville, Brisbane, Sydney, Hobart, Launceston, New Zealand, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth—Per *Taiyuan*, 18th Dec., 3 P.M.

Cebu and Iloilo—Per *Kaifong*, 18th Dec., 3 P.M.

Manila—Per *Leonce.ng*, 18th Dec., 3 P.M.

Shanghai, Nagasaki, Kobe, Yokohama, Victoria and Vancouver, (B.C.) (Will take letters to Europe marked via Siberia)—Per *Empress of India*, 18th Dec. 6 P.M.

Shanghai, Nagasaki, Kobe, Yokohama, Honolulu and San Francisco, (Will take letters to Europe marked via Siberia) —Per *Manchuria*, 19th Dec., 11 A.M.

Singapore, Penang and Calcutta — Per *Namsang*, 21st Dec., 11 A.M.

Europe, &c., India, *via* Tuticorin—Per *Dumbea*, 22nd Dec., 11 A.M.

Shanghai—Per *Taming*, 22nd Dec., 2 P.M.

Shanghai, Moji, Kobe, Yokohama, Victoria and Seattle—Per *Tosa Maru*, 22nd Dec., 3 P.M.

Singapore, Penang and Colombo — Per *Wakasa Maru*, 22nd Dec., 6 P.M.

Nagasaki, Kobe and Yokohama—Per *Kumano Maru*, 23rd Dec., 11 A.M.

Manila, Thursday Island, Cooktown, Cairns, Townsville, Brisbane, Sydney, Hobart, Launceston, New Zealand, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth and Fremantle — Per *Nikko Maru*, 24th Dec., 11 A.M.

Shanghai, Nagasaki, Kobe, Yokohama, Honolulu and San Francisco — Per *Chiyo Maru*, 26th Dec., 10 A.M.

Shanghai, Nagasaki, Kobe, Yokohama, Honolulu and San Francisco, (Will take letters to Europe marked via Siberia) —Per *Hongkong Maru*, 26th Dec., 10 A.M.

Manila, Yap, Fr. Wilhelmshafen, Simpsonhafen, Herbertshohe, Matupi, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne—Per *Prinz Waldemar*, 31st Dec., 4 P.M.

VISITORS AT THE HOTEL.

PEAK.

Aubrey, Dr.
Aucott, E. F.
Bayard, Lt.-Col. and Mrs.
Beadnell, Surgeon and Mrs.
Bedford, Col. and Mrs.
Bell, Lt.
Bolton, Mr. and Mrs.
Bowen, Mr. and Mrs.
Campbell, Miss Carter
Craig, Capt. and Mrs.
Darling, Col.
Davidson, Mr.
Dooner, Mrs.
Ellis, Mrs.
Ennoles, Rev. and Mrs. Dallas
Evans, Miss
Finch, Capt. and Mrs.
Fisher, Mr. and Mrs.
Galbraithe, Mr.
Ganisden, G. G.
Glover, Lt.-Col. and Mrs.
Greenhill, L. S.
Grieve, Mrs.
Hassan, Mr. and Mrs.
Hockaday, W. T.
Houten, Mr. and Mrs. Van
Humphreys, W. M.
Hutchison, Capt. and Mrs.
Jackson, Mrs.
Joseph, Mr. and Mrs. E. S.
Jeffries, H. N.
Knott, Mrs.
Krauss, E. L.
Lanning, Albert E.
Large, Capt. and Mrs.
Lawford, L. H.
Martin, R.
Mitchell, R.
Montfield, Engr.-Com. and Mrs.
Moreno, A.
Oliver, Capt. and Mrs.
Paston, Mr. and Mrs B.
Peal, Mr.
Perkins, T. L.
Phillips, Major
Piggott, Sir Francis
Probyn, Major
Reid, Lieut.-Col.
Rissland Mr. and Mrs H.
Sayle, Mr. and Mrs.
Shallard, Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair, A.
Smith, A. Findlay
Stacpole, Lt.-Col.
Stewart, Capt. & Mrs.
Suter, Mrs.
Thompson, L. & Mrs. Totton, Mr.
Tweedie, R.N., Lt. and Mrs.
Watkins, S. A.
Wilford, F. O.
Williams, Dr. Fitz Wood, David

HONGKONG.

Adams, P. R.
Allen, A. R.
Allen, Miss B.
Anderson, C. E.
Becker, Mr. & Mrs. R.
Baldwin, Miss M. L.
Black, Dr. G. D. R.
Black, Mr. and Mrs.
Boyce, W. Steele
Bramwell, Mr. & Mrs. W.
Chiavarini, Mr. & Mrs.
Cheney, Miss
Clark, Mrs. G. M.
Condon, H. L.
Crook, A. H.
Dobie, J. S. O.
Dorin, Mrs. J. C.
Doty, A. L. G.
Downing, Mrs O. P.
Elliot, Mr. and Mrs. J. F.
Elliot, Master
Ellis, Dr. K.
Euers, J.
Esrom, F.
Fenwich, Mrs. G. W.
Ferguson, Miss E.
Fitzgerald, Mr. & Mrs. J. T.
Francis, G.
Fseke, F.
Markley, Mr. and Mrs. G. E.
Markley, Mr. and Mrs. G. E.
Massey, Miss K. A.
McCulloch, Mrs. H. B.
McIntosh, C. C.
McKenu, Dr. G. W.
Megie, Mr. and Mrs.
Moore, G.
Mostyn, Lord & Lady
Mostyn, Honourable
Osborn, Mr. and Mrs. D. H.
Osborne, Mr. and Mrs. C. C.
Packer, B. L.
Peake, A. W. J.
Pearse, Dr. and Mrs. W. W.
Perindorge, Dr. & Mrs. G. de
Petersen, N.
Phipps, L. E.
Ray, Major and Mrs. B. B.
Ray, E. H.
Reid, R. R.
Robinson, W. Vaughan
Rodger, Mrs. R. and child
Rodier, J. P.
Roditi, V.
Schaefer, Mr. and Mrs. A.
Schorniau, W.
Shaw, K. A.
Smith, C. W.
Spittles, J.
Stebbing, W. T.
Stewart, J. W.
Strong, Mr. and Mrs. E.
Thomas, H. P.
Thomas, T. S.
Tracey, Judge & Mrs. J. F.
Urmeneta, D.
Wallach, C.
Warnfald-Lack, Mr. & Mrs. C. G.
Waterbury, F. C.
Westcott, Mrs.
Wilson, L.
Woods, J. D.
Whelan, Miss

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Caldwell, G. E.
Clotworthy, Mr. and Mrs. H. W.
Fletcher, H. L.
Gaster, Mr. E. R. A.
Jones, Dr. and Mrs. E.
Nikkels, R. N. W.
Nugent, A. G.
Pye, Mr. & Mrs. Baras
Ram, E. A.
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Smith, E. Grant
Smith, Mr. and Mrs.
Morton
Wilson, G. L.

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Appleton, Miss
Baillet, M.
Bageley, Mrs. M.
Bandulo, Mr. and Mrs.
Bell, W. D.
Blacland, Mr. and Mrs. M. C.
Cabling, Mrs. A. R.
Chapman, Mrs. J.
Chapman, Miss Louise
Clark, Mrs.
Collins, L. E.
Comeron, C. R.
Davidson, E.
Douarinou, Mrs.
Ellis, Mrs.
Eyre, Mr. and Mrs. H.
Forras, F. J.
Gilles, Mrs. John
Gomes, A. J. M.
Grandt, H.
Grant, J.
Haefner, Miss
Hamilton, J. C.
Hamilton, W.
Harvey, Geo. R.
Holm, O.
Hough, Dr.
Hudson, G.
Jack, Mrs. A. M.
Kelly, W. H.
Kendall, A.
Kendall, Mrs.
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Sears, J. N. A.
Silva-Netto, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. and child
Tample, Thomas
Taylor, Mr.
Wright, C. E.

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Andre, Miss
Boyce, Wm. B.
Chapple, F. T.
Currie, P.
Cury, G.
Gaertner, Mrs. & child
Keyt, Dr. F.
Lennox, Mr.
Lowry, R. A.
McOstrich, D.
Pringle, W. jur.
Robjoun, H. W.
Rowley, Mr.
Taylor, R.
Thompson, T. P.
Trickor, C. H.
Uschmann, A.
Whitton, Mrs. & child

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Cale, W. M.
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Compere, Master
Compere, Mr. and Mrs.
Dale, E. G.
Daniel, F. W.
Daniel, W. J.
Davies, F. O.
Day, E. W.
Donald, E. P.
Gaudet, Andree
Goulboro, V.
Gunkel, A. J.
Hannam, C. d. G.
Hausse, A. A.
Hay, G. M.
Helm, R. E.
Hugd, Dr. L.
Kaneko, A.
Kaneko, S.
Kimm, Hon. Lieut.
Lack, S.
Lane, Mr. and Mrs.
Lawrie, A. R.
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McKee, Mr. and Mrs.
Moore, Dr. and Mrs.
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Rigge, H. E.
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Young, J. F.

Kendall, Mr. and Mrs.

HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S SHIPS ON THE CHINA STATION.

Name.	Class.	Tons.	Guns.	I.H.P.	Captain.	Last reported at
Alacrity	despatch-vessel	700	4	3,000	Commander C. T. K. Fuller	Hongkong
Astraea	cruiser, 2nd class	4,360	10	7,000	Captain F. E. C. Ryan	Hongkong
Bedford	cruiser, 1st class	9,800	14	22,000	Captain S. E. Erskine	Hongkong
Bramble	river gunboat	710	6	900	Lt.-Comdr Hon. R. O. B. Bridgeman	Shanghai
Britomart	river gunboat	710	6	900	Lieut.-Commander F. B. Noble	Shanghai
Cadmus	sloop	1,070	6	1,400	Commander H. L. P. Heard	Shanghai
Cherub	water tank and tug	390	—	300	Master S. West	Hongkong
Clio	sloop	1,070	6	1,400	Commander C. T. Borrett	Hongkong
Fame	torpedo boat destroyer	306	6	5,700	Lieut.-Commander A. L. Gresson	Hongkong
Flora	cruiser, 2nd class	4,360	10	7,000	Captain R. Wland Nugent	Shanghai
Handy	torpedo boat destroyer	275	6	4,000	Lieut.-Commander B. J. D. Guy, V.C.	Hongkong
Hart	torpedo boat destroyer	275	6	4,000	Lieut.-Commander Dickens	Mirs Bay
Janus	torpedo boat destroyer	280	6	3,900	Lieut.-Commander C. A. Fremantle	Mirs Bay
Kent	cruiser, 1st class	9,800	14	22,000	Captain G. C. A. Marescaux	Hongkong
King Alfred *	cruiser, 1st class	14,100	18	30,000	Captain Clinton Baker	Hongkong
Kinsha	river gunboat	616	4	1,200	Lieut.-Commander T. J. S. Lyne	Yangtze
Merlin	surveying ship	1,070	6	1,400	Commander E. H. Walter	Jesselton
Monmouth	cruiser, 1st class	9,800	14	22,000	Captain G. W. Smith	Amoy
Moorhen	river gunboat	180	2	800	Lieut.-Commander C. C. Wal

SHARE QUOTATIONS.

Supplied by Messrs. E. S. KADOORIE & Co. Corrected to noon; later alterations given under "Commercial Intelligence," page 5.

STOCKS.	NO. OF SHARES.	VALUE.	PAID UP.	POSITION AS PER LAST REPORT: RESERVE	POSITION AS PER LAST REPORT: AT WORKING ACCOUNT.	LAST DIVIDEND.	APPROXIMATE RETURN AT PRESENT QUOTATION, BASED ON LAST YEAR'S DIV.	CLOSING QUOTATIONS.
BANKS.								
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	120,000	$125	$125	£1,500,000 $14,000,000 $250,000	$2,005,774	Interim of £2 for first half year @ ex 1/9½=$21.942	5¾ %	$850 London £82
National Bank of China, Limited	99,925	£7	£6	£4,009 $150,000	$10,223	$2 (London 3/6) for 1903	...	$50
MARINE INSURANCES.								
Canton Insurance Office, Limited	10,000	$250	$50	$1,560,000 $232,757 $411,990	none	$14 for 1907	7½ %	$197½ sales
North China Insurance Company, Limited	10,000	£15	£5	£125,000 Tls. 150,000 Tls. 303,747 Tls. 118,277	Tls. 169,512	Final of 7/6 making 15/- for 1907	5¼ %	Tls. 100
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited	12,400	$250	$100	$2,000,000 £90,000 $302,478 £129,695 $727,649	$2,506,011	Final of $15 making $45 for 1906 and interim of $30 for 1907	5¼ %	1825 buyers
Yangtsze Insurance Association, Limited	12,000	$100	$60	$1,000,000 $199,032 $85,157	$591,765	$12 and bonus $3 for 1906	9 %	$165 buyers
FIRE INSURANCES.								
China Fire Insurance Company, Limited	10,000	$100	$20	$1,000,000 $346,097 $13,802	$372,432	$6 and bonus $2 for 1906	8 %	$104 sa. and b.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited	8,000	$250	$50	$1,323,941	$428,027	$27 for 1906	8 %	$330 sellers
SHIPPING.								
China and Manila Steamship Company, Limited	30,000	$25	$25	$7,000	$1,035	$1 for 1906	...	$14
Douglas Steamship Company, Limited	20,000	$50	$50	$264,638 $99,067	Nil.	$2½ for year ending 30.6.1908	7½ %	$33 buyers
Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboat Co., Ld.	80,000	$15	$15	$250,000 $587,500 $81,766 $17,655	$17,755	$1½ for first half-year ending 30.6.08	8⅓ %	$29½ sellers
Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ld. (Preferred)	60,000			£10,000	£13,755	6/- for 1907 on Preference shares only @ ex 1/9 11/16=$3.154	5¼ %	$37 $17
Do. do. (Deferred)	60,000	£5	£5	£240,000				
Shanghai Tug and Lighter Company, Limited	200,000			Tls. 75,006	Tls. 14,510	Interim of Tls. 1½ for account 1908	7½ %	Tls. 48 sellers
Do. (Preference)	100,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50				7 %	Tls. 51 buyers
"Shell" Transport and Trading Company, Limited	2,000,000	£1	£1	£720,000 £100,000	£63,817	Final of 1/- making 3/- for 1907 and interim of 1/- (No. 10) for a/c 1908	6 %	48/-
"Star" Ferry Company, Limited	10,000 10,000	$10 $10	$10 $5	$ 5,000 $47,221	$98.	$1.00 $0.50 for year ending 30.4.1908	4 % 3⅓ %	$24 $15
Taku Tug and Lighter Company, Limited	30,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 48,00 Tls. 422,479 Tls. 72,000 Tls. 8,000 Tls. 12,000	Tls. 6,869	Final of Tls. 2½ making Tls. 5 for 1907	12 %	Tls. 45 sellers
REFINERIES.								
China Sugar Refining Company, Limited	20,000	$100	$100	$32,538 $450,000	Dr. $279,171	$8 for year ending 31.12.06	...	$112½ buyers
Luzon Sugar Refining Company, Limited	7,000	$100	$100	$56,848	Dr. $135 132	$3 for 1897	...	$10 sellers
Perak Sugar Cultivation Company, Limited	7,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	none Tls. 100,000	Tls. 9,173	Tls. 3½ for year ending 31.8.07	...	Tls. 82½ buyers
MINING.								
Chinese Engineering and Mining Company, Ld.	1,000,000	£1	£1					
Raub Australian Gold Mining Company, Limited	150,000 50,000	£1 £1	18/10 £1	£17,000 £12,289	£11,556	Final of 1/6 (coupon No. 11) for year ending 29.2.08	7½ %	Tls. 15½ buyers
				£4,878	Dr. £2,191	No. 12 of 1/-=48 cents	...	$9½
DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.								
Fenwick (Geo.) & Co., Limited	18,000	$25	$25	$53,601	$3,726	$1.75 for year ending 31.12.06	...	$12
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ld.	60,000	550	$50	$50,000 $26,806	$3,556	Final of $1½ making $3½ for 1907	7¼ %	$44 sellers
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Ld.	50,000	$50	$50	$40,000 $76,197	$384,847	Interim of $4 for account 1907	8¾ %	$91 sellers
Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ld.	15,700	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	$200,000 Tls. 1,000,000	Tls. 33,742	Final of Tls. 2½ making in all Tls. 5 for year ending 30.4.08	6½ %	Tls. 79 buyers
Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Company, Limited	36,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	Tls. 697,257 Tls. 75,000 Tls. 125,000	Tls. 22,626	Interim of Tls. 4 for account 1908	5¼ %	Tls. 142½ buyers
LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.								
Anglo-French Land Investment Co., Ld.	25,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100		Tls. 6,531	Tls. 6 for 1907	6 %	Tls. 100
Astor House Hotel Company, Limited (Shanghai)	30,000	$25	$25	Tls. 25,000	Dr. $4,220	$2½ for year ending 30.6.07	...	$16
Central Stores, Limited	50,125	$15	$15	$30,000	$9,178	$1.80 for 1906	...	$14 buyers
Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited	12,000	$50	$50	$1,000	$14,639	Interim of $3 for account 1908	7½ %	$80 buyers
Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ld.	50,000	$100	$100	$648,975 $22,000	$36,915	Interim of $3½ for account 1908	7½ %	$93 sellers
Humphreys Estate & Finance Company, Limited	150,000	$10	$10	$250,000	$4,621	70 cents for 1907	7½ %	$9½
Kowloon Land and Building Company, Limited	6,000	$50	$30	$217,426 $50,000	$653	$2½ for 1907	6⅔ %	$35
Shanghai Land Investment Company, Limited	78,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	none	Tls. 107,547	Interim of Tls. 3 for account 1908	7 %	Tls. 116½ buyers
West Point Building Company, Limited	12,500	$50	$50	Tls. 1,523,045 Tls. 170,000	$1,541	Interim of $2 for account 1908	9 %	$46
				none				
COTTON MILLS.								
Ewo Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company, Ld.	15,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50					
Hongkong Cotton Spinning, Weaving and Dyeing Company, Limited	125,000	$10	$10	Tls. 150,000 Tls. 45,939 $20,000	Tls. 8,807	Tls. 2½ for year ended 31.10.1907	3⅓ %	Tls. 69½
International Cotton Manufacturing Company, Ld.	10,000	Tls. 75	Tls. 75		$9,553	50 cents for year ending 31.7.08	5 %	$10 sellers
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Spinning & Weaving Co., Ld.	8,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	Tls. 75,000	Tls. 8,372	Tls. 6 for year ended 30.9.06 (8 %)	...	Tls. 59 sales
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Company, Limited	1,000	Tls. 500	Tls. 500	none	Tls. 6,308	Tls. 8 for 1906	...	Tls. 70 sellers
				Tls. 28,257	Tls. 50,663	Tls. 50 for 1906	...	Tls. 245 buyers
MISCELLANEOUS.								
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Limited	8,604	12/6	12/6		£648	1,101 per share for 1907=$1.037	12 %	38 buyers
China-Borneo Company, Limited	60,000	$12	$12	£1,500	Nil.	$1.20 for 1907	11 %	$11
China Light and Power Company, Limited	50,000	$10	$10	$25,000				
Do. Do. special shares	50,000	$1	$1		61,138	60 cents for year ended 28.2.06	...	5½
China Provident Loan & Mortgage Company, Ld.	125,000	$10	$10	none	$3,598	80 cents for 1907	8⅓ %	59½ buyers
Dairy Farm Company, Limited	25,000	$7½	$6	$120,000				
Green Island Cement Company, Limited	400,000	$1	$10	$102,000	$48	$1.30 for year ending 31.7.08	5⅓ %	$22½
H. Price & Company, Limited	12,000	$10	$10	$8,000	$5,078	Interim of 40 cents for account 1908	10 %	$10 sellers
Hall & Holtz, Limited	21,000	$20	$20	$12,000	$251	75 cents for 9 months ending 31.12.07	8 %	$12 buyers
Hongkong Electric Company, Limited	60,000	$10	$10	$5,000	18,957	$2 for year ending 28.2.08	10 %	$20½ buyers
Hongkong Ice Company, Limited	5,000	$25	$25	$186,000	$9,321	$1 and bonus 20 cts. for year ending 29.2.08	6⅔ %	$18 buyers
Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company, Ld.	60,000	$10	$10	none	$4,578	Interim of $4 for account 1907	8⅔ %	$230 sellers
Maatschappij tot Mijn-, Bosch- en Landbouwexploitatie in Langkat, Limited	25,000	Gs. 100	Gs. 100	$120,000 none	$8,191	Interim of $1 for account 1908	8 %	$24
Peak Tramways Company, Limited	25,000	$10	$10	Tls. 547,500	Tls. 17,127	Interim of Tls. 10 for 3rd quarter	5⅔ %	Tls. 880 sellers
Peak Tramways Company (new)	50,000	$10	$1	Tls. 27,603	$7,471	80 cents on fully paid shares and 6 cents on $1 paid shares for year ending 30.4.08	6 % 4 %	$14 $2
Philippine Company, Limited	75,000	$10	$10	$5,000	Nil.	None	...	$8
Shanghai Gas Company, Limited	24,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	none	Tls. 6,603	Final of Tls. 4 making Tls. 7½ for 1907	6⅔ %	Tls. 117 buyers
Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Company, Limited	30,000	Tls. 20	Tls. 20	Tls. 100,000	Tls. 8,493	Final of Tls. 9 making in all Tls. 24 for 1907	12 %	Tls. 117½ buyers
Shanghai Waterworks Company, Limited	16,350	£20	£20	Tls. 24,820 Tls. 75,000	Tls. 58,832	Final of 37/6 making 52/6 for 1907	...	Tls. 425 buyers
South China Morning Post, Limited	6,000	$25	$25	Tls. 190,000	Dr. $90,237	None	...	$24
Steam Laundry Company, Limited	20,000	$ 5	$ 5	none	$236	40 cents for year ending 31.5.08	8 %	$5
Tientsin Waterworks Company, Limited	2,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	none	Tls. 201	Tls. 6½ for year ending 30.4.07	...	Tls. 94 buyers
Union Waterboat Company, Limited	50,000	$10	$10	Tls. 15,295 Tls. 4,000	$112	50 cents for 1907	5 %	$10
United Asbestos Oriental Agency, Limited	10,000	$10	$4	none	$1,360	80 cents on 9,000 ord. shares and $19.80 on 100 Founders shares for yr. end. 31.5.07	6½ %	$18 buyers
Watson, (A. S.) & Co., Limited	90,000	$10	$10	$35,000	$6,438	Interim of 30 cents a/c 1908	6⅔ %	$9 buyers
William Powell, Limited	15,000	$7	$7	$300,000 $25 00	$3.95	Final of 30 cts. making 80 cts. for the year ended 30th June, 1906	...	$4
				none				

* These shares are entitled to half of the profits.

DIVIDENDS PAYABLE:—

Langkats	Tls. 20	December 15th
Ewo Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co.	Tls. 5	December 15th

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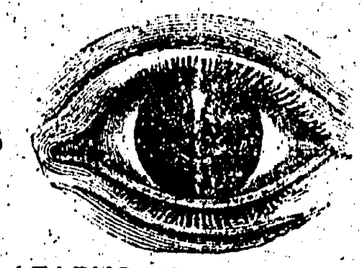
EYES  RIGHT!

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THE MANAGER,
Hongkong Telegraph Co., Ltd.
Hongkong, 10th September, 1908. [5c